

JOHN BULL

Vol. XVI. No. 405.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1914.

ONE PENNY

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

993531

For meaning of
this No. see
page III. of Cover.



*The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull*

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

**THIS WEEK
ONLY.**

£1,000

FOR

**THE BEST
"BULLET"**

**SEE PAGE
38.**

MORE PLAIN SPEAKING

TO "ANSWERS"

See this week's "COMPETITOR'S JOURNAL."

(The "Truth" of the Competition World.)
**ON SALE EVERYWHERE.
ONE PENNY.**

FIRST READ THIS.
If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

John Bull ENTRANCE FORM.

Matches to be played
Saturday, Mar. 14th.

HOME	AWAY	DRAW	HOME TEAM.	AWAY TEAM.
			Everton	v. Blackburn R.
			W. Bromwich A.	v. Bradford C.
			Sheffield W.	v. Manchester C.
			Chelsea	v. Sheffield U.
			Oldham A.	v. Middlesbro'
			Manchester U.	v. Aston Villa
			Preston N. End	v. Newcastle U.
			Birmingham	v. Blackpool
			Bradford	v. Wolverhampton
			Clapton Orient	v. Bury
			Glossop	v. Barnsley
			Stockport County	v. Hull City
			Woolwich A.	v. Fulham
			Watford	v. West Ham U.
			Coventry City	v. Plymouth A.
			Reading	v. Queen's Park R.
			Northampton	v. Swindon
			Southend	v. Cardiff City
			Brighton & Hove	v. Exeter City
			Portsmouth	v. Millwall

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signature.....

Address.....

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Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of "John Bull" contains in its cover a distinctive number, and every number of each edition will be drawn and published in the "Answers" column of the "Competitor's Journal."

To each of the Editors of copies of "John Bull" of specified date, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of completion of a collection of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number pay the sum of ONE GUINEA in return for his giving his best estimate for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a report of all the work done.

The following correct estimates have been received:—

MR. T. MARTIN, Burnhouse, Holytown, Lanark, Scotland. February 7th. £30,917.
MR. G. RANDALL, 27, North Albert Street, Fleetwood, Lancs. February 7th. £19,500.
MR. F. N. PLATT, 4, North View, Murton, Co. Durham. February 7th. £100,000.
MR. H. IRVINE, 55, Radnor Street, Clydebank, N.B. February 7th. £100,001.
MR. H. ARMSTRONG, Sunny House, Frattwn, Porthcawl, Glam. February 7th. £120,120.
MR. G. KELLY, 35, Abbey Hey Lane, St. Openshaw, Manx. February 7th. £75,000.
MR. J. FIELD, 41, Orange Street, Blackfriars, S.E. February 7th. £100,001.
MR. G. LEDGARD, 21, Gaffney Street, Batley, Yorks. February 14th. No. 100,714.
MRS. HUGHES, 53, Tavistock Square, W.C. February 14th. £100,721.
MR. B. FOULKES, 91, Hamilton Street, Collyhurst, Manchester. February 7th. £100,402.
MR. F. BOUGH, 65, High Street, Goldsborough, Stoke-on-Trent. February 14th. £100,004.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 21st:—

012328	144000	300707	533808	737448
054073	100440	300101	557684	757437
067123	174013	300076	571202	831170
080230	101077	400000	803153	846568
081678	227450	400000	611976	890134
080470	240100	400000	618387	904631
107340	200001	400000	657684	937386
117540	310023	400000	678290	A000567
123440	330025	500000	693299	A003824
127100	351013	610021	701592	A008765

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.
The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on March 11th.)

READ RULES CAREFULLY. NOTE METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

To safeguard the interests of our competitors we have adopted the following new rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win, put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencil will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "John Bull, 22, Fleet Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Football Contest, No. 14, so as to reach us not later than Friday, March 13th.

3. The sum of £1,500 will be paid to the Competitor whose Entrance Form contains the correct results, as published in the "Sporting Times" of all the matches given played to a finish on March 14th. Should it happen that no Entrance Form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £500 will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the sum of £150 to the competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number of errors; and to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from "John Bull." If the sender of a mauve coupon should win, he shall receive the £1,500, or the £500 or £150, the "John Bull" prize will be awarded to the sender of the next most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £1,500 or £500 prizes being won, the £150 prize will, of course, not be awarded. The £50 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £1,500, the £500 or the contingent prize of £150, as well as the special £50 mauve coupon prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 13th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY NOW ENTER.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H/A/D	TEAMS	H/A/D	TEAMS
	Everton v. Blackburn R.		Glossop v. Barnsley
	W. Brom. A. v. Bradford C.		Stockport v. Hull City
	Sheffield W. v. Manchester C.		Woolwich v. Fulham
	Chelsea v. Sheffield U.		Watford v. West Ham U.
	Oldham A. v. Middlesbro'		Coventry v. Plymouth A.
	Manchester U. v. Aston V.		Reading v. Queen's P. R.
	Preston N. E. v. Newcastle U.		Northampton v. Swindon
	Birmingham v. Blackpool		Southend v. Cardiff City
	Bradford v. Wolverhampton		Brighton v. Exeter City
	Clapton Orient v. Bury		Portsmouth v. Millwall

JOHN BULL.

*Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant &
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.*

Vol. XVI. No. 405.

Week ending Saturday, March 7th, 1914.

One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** and **SPORTING** inquiries should be addressed to the **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** All other communications should be addressed to **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to **Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.**

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull"
for **FEB. 28th, 1914**, bearing on
its Cover the Number **896,848**.

Apply **THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL,"**
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics
of the day.]

The Situation.

We have good ground for believing that, after all, things are not shaping themselves as readily as was anticipated towards "accommodation" on the Irish question. Of course, there will be no civil war—no real crisis. But there may, at any moment, be a Party earthquake; and at the time of writing the correct betting is even money on a Dissolution in June—as soon as the Home Rule Bill has automatically become law under the operation of the Parliament Act.

The Government's Dilemma.

The difficulty of the Government is to hold its forces together, and to keep Ulster quiet till next year—when the Plural Voting Bill would also become an Act. The exclusion of North-East Ulster does not appeal to Mr. Redmond; whilst its inclusion, with the option, after a trial, of "going out," does not satisfy Sir Edward Carson; and any kind of compromise is unpalatable to the crank section of the Liberal Party. In all these circumstances, Mr. Asquith is now seriously contemplating—with the approval of several of his colleagues—the policy of letting the Home Rule Bill take its place on the Statute Book, and then saying—"Now you can take the opinion of the country." It is an astute Party move. If, at the General Election, the Government is defeated, the Tories will have to deal with Ulster; if it is successful, the Opposition is pledged not to countenance resistance to the law.

Mr. Asquith's Strategy.

But there is an even deeper strategy in Mr. Asquith's scheme. The parliamentary Labour Party having, under its present "leadership," become a negligible political force, the free lances will undoubtedly run an increased number of candidates at the General Election. These candidates will, almost without exception, be quite "sound" on Home Rule, but their intervention will let in several Tories. This may bring in a Unionist ministry, but when it has tried its hand at repealing or amending the Home Rule Act, and the inevitable series of by-elections comes along, a bargain will be struck between the Irish, the Liberal, the Labour and the Socialist Parties, under which, as Home Rulers, they will agree not to cut each other's throats; and three-cornered contests will be avoided till the Tories are thrown out. In the meantime, Mr. Asquith will seek repose in the serene atmosphere of the Upper House, and Sir Edward Grey will be asked to lead the Opposition. If, on the other hand, the Liberals come back, Sir Edward will take Mr. Asquith's place in the House of Commons.

An Unrehearsed Act.

Such are the lines of the new Party comedy now in rehearsal. But there is one unrehearsed Act. What about those confounded Business Government candidates? They may easily play ducks and drakes with the whole show. The new Business Government League is coming into active existence. Our readers will be its members. It will be party to no compromise—and it will compromise with no Party. And when the curtain is raised on the new play, the "House" will be packed with a restless audience, impatient of the old gags and plots and actors—and the show will have to close down.

The Latest "Voice."

To enable you to interpret correctly the latest expression of the Voice of the People, as heard at Leith, we must refer you to the daily papers. So here you are. The *Daily Graphic* tells you it is "one more nail in Home Rule," and that "the result is a warning of which the Government must assuredly take heed." The *Daily News* says that the increase in the Labour vote is "noteworthy inasmuch as Mr. Bell is a Home Ruler and Mr. Walker, the Labour candidate in 1910, was not." If, on reading these journals, you are at all confused, turn to the *Daily Express*, in which you will read that a "stronghold of the North goes over to Unionism—a message to Ulster," and that Leith has "declared against the attempt to force Home Rule without an appeal to the people." The *Daily Chronicle*, however, says the result is "a Home Rule majority of 3,330," and is "decidedly damaging to the Tory and Home Rule Party." The *Standard* speaks of "a great Unionist victory"; the *Daily Mirror* of "a big Unionist win"; the *Telegraph* of "another blow to the Government," and the *Mail* of "a great Unionist triumph." For further information see the *Star*, *Reynolds's*, and other organs of public opinion. What a game it is!

Another Single Week Football Contest. £1,500 for an All-Correct Forecast. See page 32.

A Helpful Hint.

The useful, if unromantic, labours of the Comptroller and Auditor-General occasionally discover interesting transactions which might else be hidden for ever from the public eye. This exalted official now reports that in 1912 a certain gentleman was appointed as a judge of County Courts, retaining his position for exactly five months. At the end of this period he retired into private life "on the ground of permanent infirmity," and upon the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor was awarded a superannuation allowance of £500 per annum in respect of less than half a year's judicial service. "I am not informed," says the Comptroller, "whether any system or regulation exists for securing, in judicial as in other public appointments, that the persons appointed have the necessary physical fitness." Though not informed, the Comptroller knows quite well that, in Parliamentary phrase, the answer to his question is in the negative. We gladly accept his hint for the future guidance of a Business Government.

From the Bottom of the Sea.

If the First Lord of the Admiralty has not seen the statement of a Captain P. B. Coulston, lecturing at a meeting of the Southport Society of Natural Science, his particular attention is hereby called to the same. Having stated that "wireless" could transmit messages to the surface from submarines under water, the Captain alleged that "he was in a position to say, and he said it with all reserve though he knew it was correct, that in the last lamentable submarine disaster messages were actually received from her at the bottom of the sea. These messages would never be published. He happened to know something about it." The question we have to ask is, whether Mr. Churchill and the Lords of the Admiralty happen to know anything about it; and if they know what Captain Coulston says he knows, why should there be any mystery about the messages? Do they reveal something "awkward" which the Admiralty does not wish to be publicly known? Or is the whole story a myth—or a misprint?

Pecked versus Politics.

This from a correspondent: "Do journalists always preach what they believe? At any rate, politics and newspaper writers seem strange bedfellows. Mr. A. B. Fraser has left the *Daily News*—the organ of teetotalism—to take the editorial chair of the *Morning Advertiser*! Mr. A. P. Nicholson has transferred his services as chief political correspondent from Printing House Square to Bouverie Street. Well, business is business! Mr. Frank Dilnot, the present Editor of the *Daily Citizen*, took his post direct from the Reporters' Gallery of the House of Commons, where he represented the *Daily Mail*. I should like to know how many Socialists are on the staff of *The Times*, Home Rulers on the *Morning Post*, Free Traders on the *Standard*, not to say agnostics and tipplers on the *Daily News* and *Chronicle*." But every member of JOHN BULL's staff is a Bis. Gov. man.

A Parson Unafraid.

Kikuyu notwithstanding, we note that the Rev. T. H. Senior, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Aldershot, has been attending a jubilee meeting of the local Presbyterian Church. Other parsons who have dared to commit similar heinous transgressions have been compelled by their bishops to eat humble pie. In this case the Bishop of Winchester appears to have regarded the ecclesiastical sinning with approval; so that, whatever effect contact with the elders and congregation of the kirk may have upon the rev. gentleman's chances of heaven, he at any rate is safe from prosecution for either heresy or schism.

Some Fun—Perhaps.

We strongly deprecate the waste of public money involved in the establishment of a second Marconi Committee, and we have nothing but contempt for the tactics whereby it is sought to involve Lord Murray in personal discredit. It seems, however, that the terms of reference of the new tribunal are to be somewhat wider than those of the earlier inquiry, and that the disposition of Party funds is for the first time to form the subject of investigation. This is a matter in which secrecy has hitherto been jealously preserved, and we do not anticipate wholesale revelations. It is possible, however, that enough may transpire to give the plain man food for thought. The Radicals may be relied upon to carry the war into the enemy's country, and the mutual exchange of confidences thereby provoked should prove highly diverting. It is more than probable, however, that by mutual agreement a veil may be drawn over the more delicate intimacies. The Party system would scarcely survive the disclosure of the secrets of the rival war chests.

Speeches All Hot!

Luckily for the dumb dogs who crowd the benches of the Westminster Gas House, they have nowadays no need to rack their vacant brains. Their four-hundred-a-year salary enables them to purchase ready-made oratorical efforts, and palm them off as original on their admiring constituents, if not on a bored and weary House. In witness whereof scan the following advertisement, which appeared in a recent issue of the *Observer* :—

SPEECHES.—Matter supplied for all occasions. Subjects suggested, capable co-operation for busy men. Write, Secretary, General Information Bureau, 111, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

Now, when you observe your pet Party hack hastening furtively in the direction of St. Stephen's House, you may conclude that he is taking steps to cause the country to ring with his eloquence upon the first opportunity. *What a game it is!*

Our Way.

The certainty that this year's Budget will propose additional taxation leaves ample scope for speculation as to its probable incidence. It is unlikely that the Chancellor will stray far from the beaten track, though he has already drawn perilously near the limit of his taxable resources as far as the main sources of revenue are concerned. In these circumstances, it is somewhat surprising that the present moment should have been chosen for a promise of relief to the municipal ratepayer which, if it means anything, means further drafts upon the depleted Imperial Exchequer. The fact is that the exigencies of latter-day politics have well-nigh exhausted the possibilities of old-fashioned national finance. A draft of our Bill, "to tax Betting, Stock and Share Speculations, Advertisements, Theatre Tickets, and Bachelors," will be forwarded to the Treasury upon request.

A Socialistic Slump.

However the two "great" Parties may interpret the results, the Socialists, at any rate, can extract little comfort from recent electoral contests. Assisted by a bevy of enthusiastic workers, and with two daily newspapers "to their own cheek," they contrived to win eight hundred and odd votes in Poplar and a little over three hundred in Bethnal Green. Both of these are typical working-class constituencies, and the position of the figures affords a striking indication of the power of the Socialist appeal. Tired of Utopian idealism and its vague and profitless rhapsodies, the workers of these divisions turned to one or other of the "capitalist" partisans for the promise of practical reforms. Labour candidates might have headed the polls.

Don't forget the Pen Coupon. On page iii. of cover.

Scottish Bairns for English Babies.

We chanced recently to pick up a little red volume, a child's "first reader"—being No. 1 of the Oxford Reading Books, published by Henry Frowde, of the Oxford University Press. Having pleasant memories of our own "first reader," with its fine English lyrics and snatches of simple, classic prose, we were interested in sampling the kind of thing put into the hands of the kiddies of to-day. We got the book from a County School, where it is in daily use, and were rather startled to find the opening item to be a story called "The Poor Wee Bairn." Why English youngsters should be worried with a word like "bairn," instead of "child," is a mystery, and we turned hurriedly overleaf, only to come across a statement that "the rain sweeps o'er the knowes." How many youngsters learning to read can tell us what is a "knowe"? And, please, what is a "mooly cow"—a creature which occurs in the fourth item of this "Oxford" reading book? Why not call the volume the "Tobermory Reader," and let it be read only in schools north of the Tweed?

A Knotty Problem.

In view of the unrest among post office employees, it is interesting to learn that the postal authorities of Northamptonshire have failed to find an adult person of good character to deliver morning letters in the Kingscliffe district—for eighteenpence per week. It is unfortunate that Mr. Hobhouse should be confronted with this difficulty so soon after his accession to office, and we fear the incident is but typical of that spirit of independence, not to say of revolt, which is not unlikely to occasion him serious embarrassment in the near future. We can only trust that he will display an adequate measure of courage and resource in the settlement of the thorny problem which has thus attained untimely urgency. Desperate situations demand heroic remedies, and if the worst comes to the worst at Kingscliffe, he will have to offer one and ninepence. The sympathy of the nation will be with him.

A Derelict's Diary.

When Frank Harrison, a young man of 25, was committed for trial at the West London Court on a charge of attempting to steal from an automatic machine, a diary of his last week of liberty, scribbled upon a postcard, was produced for the inspection of the magistrate. Here are one or two extracts:—

Monday.—Walked about the streets all night, frost, no food, no money.

Tuesday night.—No food since 4 p.m. on Monday. No job without references.

Friday.—My reason is leaving me; nothing to eat or drink; what's the use of prolonging the agony?

It may of course have been a hoax, but men rarely fabricate such records of distress. His condition at the time of arrest seems to have lent corroboration to his statements. Most likely they were true. How many of us would have found our virtue equal to the strain?

Penalising Humour.

We should like to meet John Gardener, of Liverpool, "a fellow of infinite jest," like Yorick of old. His latest mirth-provoking escapade was to beat a dog to death with an iron shovel. Did you ever hear of anything so funny in your life? When our attention was drawn to the joke, we sat for some minutes, like Laughter, "holding both our sides." The Liverpool magisterial bench, however, appear to be devoid of the sense of humour; for when Gardener was brought up to receive his reward, they actually fined him £1—want of appreciation which we will hereby endeavour to repair by recommending John for a pension from the Carnegie Hero Fund. We cannot permit so brilliant a humorist to be so scurvily treated.

Mum and Maygothling.

We have been waiting for some time, but in vain, for Mr. J. Maygothling, J.P., of Worcester, to answer our Open Letter urging him to justify the serious allegation he made from the Bench against a well-known Birmingham solicitor, Mr. Hall-Wright. As we said, if "it was a perfect scandal that Mr. Hall-Wright did not appear for the defence" of a prisoner "after having obtained from him the money in his possession, £1 3s., for the purpose of the defence," the facts were for the Law Society to deal with as a case of professional misconduct, and Mr. Maygothling should either report them in that quarter, withdraw them, or give the solicitor an opportunity of meeting them. It is true that on the subsequent protest of the solicitor the magistrate—according to the report of the *Daily Mail*—did screw up his courage to the extent of saying that he was prepared to repeat what he had said, but so far as we can ascertain he has not repeated what he said, or, at any rate, he has not repeated what he said in any place where he is not protected by privilege. In a public sense, Mr. Maygothling has been as mum as a mute.

Safe Baiting.

The fact appears to be that Mr. Hall-Wright did not receive his full fee, and that he had informed the prisoner's mother, who instructed him, that he could not travel from Birmingham to Worcester to plead in the case unless the full fee was paid. It was monstrous of the magistrate to attack the solicitor's professional reputation behind his back, in the wild spirit of a Don Quixote, without knowing the truth of the matter. He has since backed down in correspondence to the extent of alleging that the interpretation the solicitor puts upon his words is not the correct one; but his remarks as published admit only of one interpretation, and that is the serious one that the advocate had received money to appear in Court in defence of a prisoner and had nevertheless left him at the last moment in the lurch. We said in our Open Letter that we had no special interest in the solicitor; nor have we. Our concern was and is a public one, and we asked for proof of the magistrate's charge from that point of view, and that alone. The proof is not forthcoming—on the contrary; and the aggrieved solicitor is without remedy, for in an action at law Mr. Maygothling, J.P., could plead the privilege of his place on the Bench, and there would be an end. Having made the public charge, he ought to make the public withdrawal and apologise like a gentleman. As the matter stands now, he is convicted of a flagrant injustice to a professional man, dependent on the honourable exercise of his profession for a livelihood.

No Swapping Allowed.

Among the hundreds of complaints as to the administration of the Ninepence For Fourpence Act received by us every week, none has been lately more persistent than that panel patients are not allowed to swap doctors when they want to. It seems that your doctor may be the biggest duffer on the Medical Register—that he may half kill you with the wrong physic, or treat you for bunions when you have gout, or refrain from coming when he is called, and bully you for calling him when he comes—but unless you can get his consent to transfer you to another medico, who must also consent to your being transferred, you must put up with him until you are dead. "Now, sir," demands a reader, "what on earth have I to get my present panel doctor's consent for? Why, in the name of goodness, should I have to go cap in hand to him? Haven't I paid for my benefit; haven't I the right to claim value for my fourpence, haven't I—?" You have, good sir; and heaven help you!

For This Week Only. £1,000 for the best "Bullet". See page 38.

Deadly Perils.

For the second time within twelve months disaster has visited the works of Messrs. Nobel, explosive manufacturers, of Ardeer, Ayrshire. Only last March a sudden explosion was responsible for the loss of seven lives, and now a similar catastrophe has sent eight men to their death. In each case the fatal accident appears to have occurred without the least warning and to have been traceable to processes involved in the normal course of manufacture. The production of high explosives upon a large scale is necessarily attended with grave risk, but the swift recurrence of disaster in Messrs. Nobel's works none the less merits the closest investigation. Such tragedies serve to emphasise the need for the most vigilant supervision of perilous industrial operations. The record of the Home Office in this connection is scarcely calculated to inspire confidence.

Terms of Endearment.

Judging by the result at the last meeting of the Abergele and Pensarn Council, Mr. W. P. Morris, the Chairman, is insufficiently discriminating in his terms of endearment. He described a petition of Non-conformists against the Welsh Church Bill, signed by some members of the Council, as "the invention of the Devil, blessed by the Bishop of St. Asaph, and believed in by fatheaded fools." "Then there are 15,000 of them in this diocese," remarked one of seven members who walked out of the meeting. "Granted that," retorted the Chairman. Of course, Mr. Morris probably knows a great deal more of the community than we do; but even so we suggest to him that 15,000 is such a lot for one diocese that he has probably overcounted them. He had better leave the enumeration, quality, and classification of heads to a more sober statistical authority.

Marriage or Gaol.

Marriage as a defence is gaining in popularity. When Elizabeth Faulkner left her late domestic employment, she absent-mindedly carried away watches and other goodly articles to the value of £5. Charged at Stratford with the theft, she pleaded guilty and expressed contrition. Thereupon a man named Masters came forward to aver that the woman's plight was a sore grief to him, inasmuch as he had promised to make her his wife. Then followed a rehearsal of the marriage service, the lover agreeing to wed the prisoner without delay, and she apparently expressing her willingness to accept him as her lawful spouse. These formalities complete, the Chairman "bound over" the woman under the Probation Act, thus sparing the rod of justice. We are rarely disposed to cavil at magisterial clemency, but "marriage or gaol" hardly strikes us as a politic alternative.

Who Shall Pay?

The residents of Cradley Heath, who have had their homes destroyed and their lives placed in jeopardy by a mining subsidence, may extract what comfort they can from the "official explanation" tendered by the colliery management. It declares "that the subsidence was due to circumstances which could not have been foreseen and over which the Company have no control, and the explanation of which is of a technical nature." We fancy that this "explanation" will hold only so long as it goes unchallenged. The property owners concerned will do well to press for details of those technical considerations which are held so far to transcend their untutored comprehension. Mine-owners enjoy valuable public concessions, and should be made to pay for any incidental damage which their profitable undertakings may occasion.

A District Council Job.

Recent proceedings of the Stonehouse District Council reveal a state of things which must have startled the ratepayers, whatever impression they may have on the new President of the Local Government Board. Mr. W. H. Wood, the East Stonehouse Collector, retired from his post after 30 years' service, and a successor was duly appointed. The Council applied to the Local Government Board for permission to award a pension of £30 a year, and though the Board refused on the ground that there was no statutory authority permitting such a thing, the friends of Mr. Wood on the Council have given him £30 a year as Assistant Rate Collector, though it is admitted that he will not have any duties to perform. "The Clerk said this was the usual way the difficulty was got over"; but this is a paraphrase of the facts. He should have said it is the usual way jobbery in the interests of public officials, at the expense of the ratepayers, is accomplished.

Passing the Bag.

The Rev. R. R. Verity, Priest-in-Charge of SS. Matthias and George at Astwood Bank, will probably regret to hear that his remarks in the parish magazine on those who "pass the bag and give nothing" have caused a great deal of offence. It is represented to us that, though the parish is a working-class one, the parishioners have raised money in four years to build a church, and "it is doubtful if any person does pass the alms bag; if there is such it must be someone who cannot afford to give." "You go religiously to church, or even the sacraments, but pass the bag," says the reverend gentleman. "Covetousness and selfishness are quite at home in a Sunday coat. There is a long list of religious people who have made shipwreck on this rock. There is Balaam. There is Gehazi. There is Demas. There is Judas. . . ." Surely he is wrong about Judas? We certainly have never heard that he passed the bag.

Mean Methods.

When sued at the Lambeth County Court by Standard Developments, Limited, moneylenders, of Eastcheap, E.C., Arthur Collins, of West Norwood, was said by the Registrar to be paying interest at the rate of 133 per cent. on a loan of £15. Explaining his submission to this extortion, the defendant declared that he signed a promissory note in these extravagant terms to satisfy the plaintiffs, who were incessantly "ringing him up" on the telephone at his place of business. His employers had threatened to discharge him if the importunities of the usurers were continued. This unfair and unscrupulous device on the part of certain moneylending firms has been more than once condemned by County Court judges. Judge Parry, in the present instance, adopted a more effective course, reducing the plaintiffs' claim from £12 to £4. Well done, Parry!

Extraordinary Peculiarities.

This is to thank *Il Papagallo*, primo giornale colorato, umoristico, politico, Italiano di Augusto Grossi, caricaturista, published at Bologna, in Italy, for tickling us as with a feather. Within it is a coloured cartoon, entitled "Le Perroquet," and an English translation is set beneath side by side with the Italian text. "The miserable Balkans, when they settled the alliances," it states, "valourously fighting, they gained the irredeemable holdings to the enemy. Afterwards, for to come to peace, they submitted themselves to personages of European potencies with Sir Grey, the inconclusive of London, to finish of the rebellings reduced in bands against Epirus, Macedonia, and Albany, victims of innocent people against the civility." Now, then, Sir Grey, what say you to that? Is it true, or is it isn't?

By the way, Don't Forget to take home "Mary Bull." On Sale Fridays.

Civil Rights.

Most people will sympathise with Sir Edward Ward, who has been ordered to pay £2,000 damages to Major Adam, in respect of a letter written at the instance of the Army Council and subsequently circulated to the Press. There can be little doubt that Sir Edward acted without malice, and in what he conceived to be the normal course of his official duty. It must not, however, be forgotten that in asserting his right of redress against a servant of the Crown, Major Adam was exercising one of the most valuable privileges attaching to British citizenship. In France, Germany, and most other Continental nations, such an action would have been impossible, the conduct of Government officials being there regulated by "droit administratif" and withdrawn from the pale of the ordinary law. In Great Britain, on the contrary, Government service confers no immunity from civil process, and the authority of the Executive affords no defence to an action for damages. Meanwhile, our sympathy for Sir Edward is tempered by the reflection that a Ministry which briefed its Attorney-General for his defence will scarcely leave him in the lurch when it comes to footing the bill.

Benton's Murder.

Of course, as it is only a British subject who is alleged to have been murdered by Villa, the Bandit General of the Mexican rebels, nothing will happen; whereas if it had been a German or a Russian or a Japanese or an Austrian subject there would be a fearful din, and it would probably not be very long before Villa was strung up under a tree and hanged by the neck until he was as dead as mutton. In this country we never do anything in these days except yield, and compromise, and talk - every foreign Government, tin-pot or otherwise, being at liberty to kick or kill a Britisher without anything happening except an exchange of diplomatic pleasantries. Not only is Mr. Benton said to have been murdered, but it is just as likely that he was robbed - while, instead of being strung up, the betting as we write is a hundred pounds to a haysced that Villa will put his fingers to his nose and put a bullet or two through other non-belligerents to show what he thinks of Yankees and British alike. Nice state of things, isn't it?

Free Frome.

It seems that the River Frome, which waters the vales of Dorset, is much more "free" than local sportsmen have been wont to assume. This grateful discovery is due to the boldness of a humble fisherman, who, after angling near Wareham without the customary licence, received a fearsome letter of remonstrance from a firm of solicitors. We now learn, however, that "the matter has been gone into," with the result that the water is found to be public property in all but name. Fish may be caught with net or rod, fowl may be shot or snared, watercress may be gathered in armfuls. There is, indeed, but one solitary reservation. Save with a licence, salmon must not be disturbed. Sportsmen of Dorset, rejoice and make a joyful noise!

Red Light.

Readers who have followed the trend of our observations upon South African affairs will have no difficulty in crediting the statement of a prominent news agency that "racial feeling is rampant" in the colony. It is said that at Trompsburg, in the Orange Free State, an English theatrical touring company had engaged a hall for a performance, but before the hour of opening permission to use the building was withdrawn, with the courteous intimation that "English were not wanted there." "Those damned English" is said to be a common expression among the Dutch population. Brother Boer is beginning to feel his feet. "If you see it—!"

August Approval.

Prince William of Wied, who will shortly be crowned King of Albania, has recently paid a hurried round of visits to the principal European capitals. In this ceremonial progress we note that Berlin and Vienna enjoyed pride of place, and we are further assured that the monarch-to-be is a warm personal friend of the Kaiser, and will set out for his new capital at Durazzo with the Imperial blessing. Prince William's brief stay in London culminated in a *recherché* little dinner at the German Embassy. In these circumstances, it ceases to be matter for surprise that the election of the Prince to the Albanian throne should have given entire satisfaction to the Triple Alliance. With Germany supreme at Durazzo and at Constantinople, the Near Eastern question has entered upon a new phase. Oh for ———!

General Carson.

We thought there could be no truth in the announcement that General Sir Edward Carson is engaged to be married. He is wedded to Ulster.

THE WEEK'S "BISCUIT."

[*"Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical compliment. Below we present, each week, and in all good humour, the "Biscuit" to the individual or periodical named, in respect of the achievement or utterance indicated.*]

For stating that the "honour" of being the subject of a cartoon in "Vanity Fair" was "a thing no money could buy."

**THE SKETCH
Takes the Biscuit****RHYMES OF THE TIMES.****MUSI-MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**

(Dr. James Cantlie has discovered a method of diagnosing diseases by means of the tuning-fork.)

Doctor, I am out of sorts,
I've no notion what is wrong,
But, according to reports,
You can probe it with your prong:
Stethoscopes are out of date,
Tappings—a delusive test:
Hasten, then, nor hesitate—
Tune your fork upon my chest!

Brrr! it's cold! Its vibrant hum
Tickles like the very deuce:
Try it next upon my "tum"—
Praps I'm short of gastric juice.
No? Then plant it on my back,
Buzzing like a boy's Jew's harp,
For my kidneys may be slack,
Or my liver chilled. B sharp!

Nothing doing? Nonsense! I
Scarce can tell how ill I feel.
Kindly have another try—
Some disease it MUST reveal!
All I suffer is a corn?
Sure it's nothing worse than that?
Your diagnosis I scorn!
What d'you take me for—A fat?

£1,000 for the best "Bullet"—Another Mammoth Prize Offer. See page 38.

OUR ANSWER TO "ANSWERS."

COLLAPSE OF NORTHCLIFFE COMPETITION—"BULLETS" BOOMING.

In the issue of *Answers* dated February 28th, appears an announcement to the effect that, just as that paper "has led in the promotion of popular skill competitions, so now it will lead in its decision to discontinue them." Just think of that! The competitions have been "popular," and they have been "skill" contests—but they are to be discontinued. And why? you will ask. Let the noble Northcliffe tell you. "In the early days," he says, "competitions were introduced to give an added piquancy and interest to an important home journal." Now, please always bear that in mind, dear good reader. "Added interest and piquancy"—nothing to do with increased circulation or any sordid motive of that kind. But listen: "Competitions were always intended to be subservient to high literary excellence and sheer merit of editorial fare." But apparently something went wrong with the scheme, for we are told that "now they have grown to such a state that there is some danger of their overshadowing the general contents." Just think of it—a page of particulars of a skill contest "overshadowing" twenty-four pages of "high literary excellence"! And you have no idea how high that literary excellence is. We will give you a sample, taken from the column on the front and most important page, adjoining the historic announcement with which we are dealing. It is about pancakes, and this we are told is their origin as a Lent institution. "In anticipation of the approaching fast, the people would make the most of their time with a huge meal; and, as the eating of flesh was forbidden, the fare mainly consisted of the pancake, and this seems to be the only dish which remains to us to-day." There's high literary excellence for you! You observe that the fare "mainly consisted"—not "consisted mainly" as those ignorant Council school teachers would say. And you will observe, too, that in those days there was no fish—our poor old forefathers just blew themselves out with pancakes! And here is our contemporary in scientific mood: "It is well to be cautious and not to open golf balls to see what they are made of. The vast majority, of course, contain no fluid substance, but balls have been known to hold strong acids, which are apt to do serious harm." Let golfers, therefore, beware. No longer must they sit on the links, penknife in hand, holding a post-mortem on those little barrels of prussic acid which they have been innocently harbouring in their households. And here is another tip for them. When a player behind them shouts out "Fore!" to warn them of the approach of the ball, they must not look back, but should "lean forward with the head bent down"—the object being, presumably, to meet the approaching bomb with the most resilient portion of the body. One more example from the same column. This time our brother is in humorous mood, and observe how here, too, the high standard of "literary excellence" is maintained: "SHE: Are they happy together? HE: Well, he stays in every evening. SHE: Then they must be. HE: But she goes out." Now we begin to realise how it is that the editorial fare was not appreciated—it was too "high"—and should not be kept a day longer.

THE CAT JUMPS OUT.

But whatever be the explanation, the fact remains that *Answers*, in the words of the *Competitors' Journal*, has "thrown up the sponge." "From now," they say, "we shall go back to what competitions were always intended to be . . . for prizes which, though small by comparison, will still prove acceptable to those who win them." There you have it—the cat is out of the

bag. In future the prizes are to be small; *Answers* cannot afford to continue on the present scale. That is the plain truth, and it would be better for the editor to admit it. Instead of doing so, however, he indulges in a little sermon almost suggestive of cant. He forgets that *Answers* was built up on the foundation of competitions, and, what is more, he forgets that several of its kindred publications—that is to say, other Northcliffe journals—are still running competitions for all they are worth.

JERKYL AND HYDE.

Let us turn, for instance, to the *Family Journal* and the *Woman's World*. "We will pay your rent," say the editors of these highly excellent literary publications; and then there is to be a scramble on the part of the readers to get on "The Rent Register." "This is no difficult competition," we are told—no skill this time, you notice. We agree. All the skill is in the wording of the scheme. Not a word as to the amount of the rent, and whether it is to be paid for a week, a month, a quarter, or a year; and not a word as to how the winners are to be selected. "The names and addresses of the 450 readers whose rents we decide to pay first will appear very shortly. Look out for your name and address"!!! And what about the *Weekly Dispatch*—another Northcliffe paper? Apparently its Football Competitions are doing all right. "£500 a week for Football Forecasts—our great Football Competition—Scottish readers may enter," we read, and then we are told that "individual competitors may send in as many entries as they wish, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope." That is what Mr. *Answers* calls "added piquancy and interest." Come, come, Lord Northcliffe!

SPOOFING THE PUBLIC.

His Lordship must please give the great public credit for not being quite so simple as he imagines it. People nowadays know that he controls *The Times* and the *Daily Mail*; and in view of the facts set out above, was he quite playing the game in booming the *Answers* decision in the columns of these papers and saying "It will be interesting to watch what effect the change exercises on the future of the periodical press, and whether this bold editorial policy will influence other journals"? Will it influence the *Weekly Dispatch*? Will it influence the *Family Journal*, and the *Woman's World*? The truth is that the Northcliffe competitions have always been a source of anxiety. It is difficult to conduct properly one large scheme of the kind—and even the genius of a Northcliffe cannot grapple with several. Hence his journals have been floundering. Once there were "Finals," but they fizzled out, and "Initials" took their place; and in the summer we had "Sunshines" instead of football—and we know not what else beside. Then, again, a permanently successful newspaper competition requires as the essential foundation of success an intelligent "high literary excellence" of some of our noble friend's journals, they have failed to attract a constituency of readers worthy of the rich feast provided. Missing Words and Limericks were scarcely calculated to encourage the development of grey brain matter. But Lord Northcliffe is a big man. Let him come out boldly with the admission that until JOHN BULL entered the Newspaper Competition field, "Simplets" and similar childish pastimes had a chance—but that "Bullets" and our other Prize schemes are to-day the recognised skill competitions of the world.

HELL FOR OLD HORSES.

DAMNABLE TRAFFIC FOR VIVISECTION AND SAUSAGE.

Incredible as it may seem, we have information that opposition is being whipped up in the House of Commons against a Bill to be introduced by Colonel Hall Walker, the Member for Widnes, drafted to abolish the worst horrors of the traffic in old and decrepit horses, between the ports of this country and the Continent. One would scarcely imagine there could be a representative of a British constituency so deficient in his sense of humanity, so blind and deaf to the plain, indisputable facts of this damnable traffic, as to oppose, or delay even for an instant, the passage of so admirable and so essential a Bill to the Statute Book of this country. Its provisions, briefly, prohibit the exportation alive of horses of less value than £10, the value to be computed by competent veterinarians before the journey abroad.

HUMANITY NO PARTY QUESTION.

It will be seen that it is not a Party measure, and has no Party object. It is an earnest, honest, unequivocal appeal to the humane instincts of the British people. It says, in their name, that there shall be no more hell for horses between the ports of this country and the sausage factories and vivisection laboratories of the Continent; no more starvation, no more torture. In their hearts and in their attitude towards dumb animals, the British people the terrible cruelties practised by individual brutes notwithstanding—are the humanest people in the world. Especially do we believe that there is not a single reader of JOHN BULL who would for a moment hesitate to go out of his way, not only to inculcate, but to obtain for dumb, defenceless animals the kindness and sympathy and compassion of his fellows. On behalf of the victims of this abominable British-Continental horse traffic, then, we appeal to our readers to leave undone nothing they can do to secure the passage of Colonel Hall Walker's Bill; and the immediate thing we suggest that they should do is to write to their local Member of Parliament, and get their friends and their friends' friends to write as well, seeking the pledge of his vote in its support. We John Bullites are a very big influence and power in the land. Let us use our influence and our power now in this cause.

THE VIA DOLOROSA.

The traffic in old and decrepit horses is a vested interest in callous cruelty. Taking the value of each exported horse at what is about the actual figure, £4, the amount pocketed by the people engaged in it from this side is £150,000; and, the average sale price in Holland and Belgium being £8 a horse, it is evident that the total sum involved from first to last is, on this computation, upwards of £300,000 a year. This means that 45,000 old and decrepit horses are exported from British ports such as Leith, Hull, Newcastle and Goole to Continental horse butchers, sausage manufacturers, and vivisectioners every year; and this is the truth. Many of these poor beasts are utterly unfit to travel; some of them are too weak to stand; some of them are famished; some are lame; some suffer from hidden disease; some are blind pit ponies which, after all the unrevealed hardships of their life in the dark underground, are brought into the daylight to be buffeted about the waters and become the tortured victims of experimental vivisection in the real or supposed interests of veterinary science. Between the time when these poor beasts arrive in Antwerp and are then marked for death by a metal clip affixed to the ear, many days of terrible suffering frequently elapse; indeed, as the metal clips have not to be returned, it is difficult to fix a limit to the duration of their sufferings. Sometimes they are sent from Antwerp along miles of clattering railway to Brussels and beyond; sometimes they are driven, foodless and waterless, sweating and bleeding, along the cruel roads; sometimes they wait for days in Augean stables, starving all the while, for a death in the slaughter-sheds so cruel that one shudders to describe it or even to think of it. This, then, is the villainous traffic we ask our readers to aid Colonel Hall Walker in ending once and for all. It exists to-day because the nation has been largely ignorant of its existence. To the extent of our enormous circulation, at any rate, it can plead ignorance no longer. Let us cry "Finis!"

Another Single-Week Football Contest. £1'500 for an All-Correct Forecast. See Page 33.

DIRTY LINEN.

A 3s. 6d. "TOUCH" WHICH DID NOT COME OFF.

Another firm working the "dumped goods" dodge is the British Linen Company, 112, New Oxford Street. On their letter paper they claim to possess "wholesale and shipping departments," and to be "Contractors to the London County Council." By means of an advertisement, they obtain sums of 4d. for a toilet cover which, from its description, is a great bargain. In addition to what was ordered, they send other goods, with an account for 3s. 6d., and an intimation that if these unordered things are bought the purchaser will be entitled to a present. A Wood Green correspondent who was treated in this way promptly returned the unwanted articles. Months passed, when to her surprise she received the following letter, printed so as to imitate typewriting:—

Re ACCOUNT RENDERED 3s. 6d.

We beg to remind you that this is the third application we have made for a settlement of the above $\frac{9}{16}$ which is now much overdue. As it is necessary to clear this small item without further delay we give you *due and final Notice* that unless we receive the Goods or Remittance within 7 days we shall hold you *liable for all expenses* involved by any Action we may be compelled to take in the matter.

This, for the purpose of deceiving its recipient—who no doubt is presumed to be a poor and ignorant woman—bears in the corner the letters "Dic. 11." In this case, however, the trick was a failure, for the communication merely elicited a stinging letter, which we hope gave those responsible for the dodge "furiously to think." It is hardly necessary to say that, though the seven days have long expired, no awful consequences—or, indeed, consequences of any kind—have befallen her.

The dirty Linen Company are now attempting to "have" another North London woman—living at Upper Edmonton—upon whom they have planted the usual 3s. 6d. worth. Again came the bogus typewritten letter. She, however, acting under advice, has informed the very sharp—or shall we say sharper?—firm that if they send for the goods which they have foisted upon her, she will hand them over, in exchange for a proper receipt and on the production by the messenger of authority to take them back. In no circumstances will she submit to the imposition they seek to put upon her.

The dumping dodge has long been a favourite with certain shady concerns, but still finds fresh—or otherwise—exponents.

BY GUM!

AMERICAN AGENTS' CASH CONDITION.

A few weeks ago "The American Agency," of 31, Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, E., inserted in a London paper an advertisement for a lady collector, salary 25s. The daughter of one of our Ilford readers applied for the post and received a letter asking her to call. Upon doing so she was informed that the "Agency" was a new firm introducing automatic machines for supplying chewing gum, and that her duties would be to collect the money from them. She was told, further, that there had been over 200 applications for the position, but that if her father would act as guarantee she would be engaged from the following Monday. The interview was followed almost immediately by this letter:—

Subject to the reference which you have this morning given us and to the security of £10 being forthcoming we are prepared to engage you from Monday next as traveller and collector at a salary of 25s. per week and travelling expenses for a term of 12 months.

It is understood that the deposit is only held as a security and will be returned to you in full on your leaving our service.

Despite this communication, the applicant was not prevailed upon to part with the £10, but offered instead the guarantee of a County Councillor—which was refused. From this it appears that in the case of "the American Agency" it is the money they want; and future applicants should note the fact. Moreover, if the object of the Agency is to introduce the detestable Yankee habit of gum-chewing into this country, they merit public condemnation.

"JOHN BULL" AND THE STARCHFIELD CASE.

WHAT HAPPENED AT OUR OFFICE—STATEMENT IN COURT.

The truth about the part we have played in connection with what is known as the Train Murder case is gradually coming to light, and although Mr. Biron, the Old Street magistrate, has not yet formally withdrawn the somewhat premature observation which fell from his lips at the close of the evidence of the witness Moore—and to which we at once took strong exception—we are not without hope that when he has heard the evidence of the several persons mentioned below, he may wish to do so. The witnesses in question cannot, however, be called before Monday next, and meanwhile we must be content to give the following report of what Mr. Margetts, the defending solicitor, said about the matter when the case was last before the Court. After dealing with the testimony of other witnesses for the prosecution, Mr. Margetts proceeded:—

Then comes that remarkable witness, John Moore, who alleges that at ten minutes to two he saw Starchfield outside the Camden Town tube station going towards Kentish Town. He said it took him two weeks to remember the incident, although he had read about the murder and had seen the photograph of Starchfield and the boy two or three days after the 8th of January. Two weeks, he says, it took him to remember that, and a week to remember the spot where he alleges he had seen Starchfield. Now, sir, I am going to urge upon you that the witness Moore is an utterly irresponsible and unreliable person. What has happened is this: He has read about this murder, as so many have done; he has imagined this interview a fortnight or three weeks afterwards. He is constantly to be found in a public-house; he begins speaking about it and he talks so much that he finds people are saying "Why do not you go to the police?"; and eventually he has to go somewhere and tell his story to some person or other. The first person whom I am able to give to whom he comes with the statement at all is Mr. Bennett. He went into that shop, and in the presence of five or six persons he began to tell a quite different story from what you have heard in the police court. It so happens that Mr. Bennett had been a witness at the inquest, and knew all the details of this case, and Mr. Bennett, noticing the man's demeanour (he was half-drunk) began to question this man Moore—with the result that Mr. Bennett, like a reasonable man, at once came to the conclusion that he was lying, and told him to get out of his shop immediately, on which Moore went. As he tells you, Mr. Bennett was exceedingly angry with him, ordered him out of the shop, and he went out quietly. But before that, and he has had to admit this in cross-examination, his one anxiety had been, "What am I going to get for my information? Am I going to be paid for the loss of my day's work?" That is the man Moore.

MOORE'S VISIT TO "JOHN BULL."

Then we hear of him again. On Wednesday, February 4th, he goes to the JOHN BULL offices, I may say like a good many persons have been in connection with this case, to make all sorts of statements, in some of which there may be some strata of truth, and as regards others they are too utterly ridiculous to bear examination for a single moment. I am in a position to put in the witness box the four persons whom he saw at the JOHN BULL offices. The first one is a young man named Grindley, a most intelligent fellow. Mr. Moore goes into the office in a half-drunken state and says: "Oh, I have a most important communication to make. I actually saw the murder done by Starchfield." They looked upon him as a madman at first, and he was referred to a Mr. Gage. To Mr. Gage he makes a similar statement. He says: "I want to see Bottomley; is Bottomley in? I am sure he would like this information first hand which I have to give about Starchfield." Then I propose to call Mr. Edmondson, who will tell you that he

did make different statements—and that is the one I had—and, of course, upon this there is an absolute contradiction in the evidence he has given in this Court. His one idea was, "How much am I to get out of this? How am I to be recompensed?" Then, you will remember, his statement was taken, and after his statement was taken he wanted to know whether he would be looked after, or his wife and children would be provided for, and what he was to do. He was told to return to work, and then he would be communicated with in due course. Then I understand the statement was forwarded to Mr. Bottomley, who was out of town, and the next day Moore came again in a state of semi-drunkness, and said: "You have done a nice thing for me. My master says I must go to the police." Edmondson said: "Your master is a very sensible person, and you had better go to the police." Then Moore got very angry because he was not going to be paid, and he was ordered out of the office. Edmondson and Wray went straight to Bow Street, gave a short synopsis of his evidence, and it was—and Inspector Gough admits it—by reason of that information that Moore came to be interviewed by the police. Apart from all that, why did Moore go to JOHN BULL if it was not for the purpose of obtaining money? It is ridiculous to say he went for advice, when there are all the police in the district who would be only too pleased to have advised him on that matter. Then look at the ridiculous story he told in re-examination. The statement was to the effect that he was to be taken into the country and kept back until some moment, some sensational moment. I suppose the suggestion is that he would be communicated with when he was to be produced. Is not that statement altogether too absurd to be relied upon for a single moment? Would any journalist or editor in this country be so foolish as to run such a terrible risk as that? This man has kept his statement back for just one month. He alleges he is to be taken away, and his statement is to be still further withheld from the police. The very first question which would be put to him by any counsel or advocate would be, "What is the reason of this delay? Explain your movements—explain everything; how is it you have not come forward until this last moment?" I venture to think owing to these circumstances that Moore is an absolutely and utterly unreliable witness, and I ask you, I think with fairness, to shut his evidence absolutely out of your mind.

Now, sir, you must remember, as we all do, the half-drunk manner in which he lurched into the witness-box on the first occasion. At the time of that examination the statement which he had made to the JOHN BULL representative was in Court signed by Moore. Why was not that question put? For the simple reason that it was absolutely contrary to the learned counsel's case. According to his case, 5 or 6 minutes afterwards the man who is suggested to be Starchfield is at Camden Town tube station, wearing a trilby hat. I find in this document this remarkable statement by Moore: "Starchfield was wearing his usual cap; I swear to that positively. When he moved towards me and I moved towards him he pulled his cap over his eyes so that I should not recognise him." Now, sir, in conducting the case for the prosecution (of course, it is not for me to make suggestions), in common fairness to a man who is upon trial for his life I do respectfully submit that, whether the point is against them or not, the prosecution should have used the whole of the information which they had from Moore, and not kept back half of it. So much for Moore.

CRANKY CHIEF CONSTABLE.**WEST SUSSEX IN REVOLT.**

For some time past we have been inundated with letters from West Sussex correspondents, indignantly condemning the arbitrary conduct of Chief Constable A. S. Williams in recklessly reducing his unfortunate subordinates for trivial offences. We consequently instructed our Special Commissioner to inquire fully into the matter, and he has come to the conclusion that this autocratic individual is suffering from a severe attack of "swelled head," unless, indeed, he be absolutely mad.

Perhaps the greatest amount of indignation centres on the case of Superintendent Fowler, of Worthing, who has been reduced to the rank of sergeant and transferred to Horsham. To use a phrase of a highly-respected citizen of Shoreham, this case constitutes "the refinement of cruelty." Mr. Fowler has been upwards of twenty-three years in the force and has gained the respect of all law-abiding citizens. For the serious offence of having a friendly game of cards with some of his comrades in the charge-room at Worthing (which is the only recreation room attached to the police station)—*when off duty*—this severe punishment has been meted out to him.

"THE REFINEMENT OF CRUELTY."

Up to this time there was not one single mark against Mr. Fowler's good name. As he is within two years of completing his full service, the punishment is all the more severe, for his pension will be seriously affected. But now note the "refinement of cruelty." He is transferred to Horsham, where he was previously Superintendent, and will have to take his orders from those who were recently his subordinates.

Another case which is causing a great amount of excitement and indignation is that of Inspector Slade, who had been on duty for fourteen hours, without refreshment, conveying a boy to a reformatory. Upon his return to Littlehampton, he was immediately called out to a fierce row between man and wife. To be near in case of need, but not show himself, he took cover in the doorway of the Gratwicke Arms, which happened to be opposite. While there he asked the landlady for a glass of beer, stating he was "done up." He also gave the constable with him a glass of ginger-beer. He paid for both drinks. Inspector Slade has been reduced for this.

Chief Constable Williams himself does not abide by his own orders. He often takes refreshment in public-houses, although when "His Excellency" visits them, they doubtless must be referred to as "hotels."

But the latest vagary of this swelled-headed autocrat "takes the biscuit." Our representative was shown a new Order issued by him. It appears that every member of the force gets a holiday once a fortnight. The new Order is to the effect that on this holiday *every man must be indoors by 10 o'clock!*

A PARALYSING POTENTATE.

Several members of the force have been interviewed by our Special Commissioner, but they all seem too cowed to say or do anything. Our representative saw Mr. Fowler, his wife and family off by train to Horsham. They were nearly broken-hearted. Mrs. Fowler stated that the only thing that induced them to bear up was the splendid sympathy of all the inhabitants.

Some few months ago, on the occasion of a police fête, to which the Mayors of Worthing and Chichester, and several prominent citizens were invited, no preparations were made by the Chief Constable for their reception. They had to find their own seats among the rank and file. The Chief Constable, however, had a private tent in which he entertained a select party of friends, with lobsters and champagne galore.

We refrain at the moment from going further into the many cases of injustice for which this man is responsible, as Mr. Alderman Patching, ex-Mayor of Worthing, informed our representative that a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee has been convened, when the circumstances will be fully inquired into. In the meantime, a petition is being extensively signed, expressing indignation at the arbitrary conduct of the Chief Constable. Justice demands the re-instatement of the men to their proper rank.

THE WILES OF WILES.**MANCHESTER MAGICIAN'S MAGNETIC MYSTERIES.**

A gentleman with the appropriate name of Wiles, carrying on business at 124, Market Street, Manchester, has recently embarked in the conjuring and parlour-magic line. Describing himself as a "model engineer and electrician," he has issued a copious price list of trick appliances wherewith the veriest tyro may rival the wizardry of the stage illusionist. Here are all our old familiar friends, with quite a number of new devices fresh from the brain of the inventor. Here is the penny which will go through the crown of your best "topper," leaving it none the worse; or, better still, a coin which may be dropped clean through a glass tumbler, a pack of cards and a table, into a receptacle held beneath. This latter trick is especially commended to the would-be wizard, in that it can be effected "with the sleeves turned up and right close to and in front of the audience." No deception, gentlemen!

The supreme beauty of Mr. Wiles's ingenious devices consists in the fact that they are "absolutely undetectable." A Manchester reader with recent experience entirely confirms this claim. So obscure are the operations of two tricks he has purchased that, despite unremitting efforts extending over several weeks, he has utterly failed to perform them. Yet we are assured that they present not the least difficulty to the conjuring manager of the Market Street emporium. With the aid of a tin florin and a hinge, this worthy is able to collect any number of coins from the atmosphere and deposit them in a hat, while our correspondent, despite his almost frantic efforts, cannot raise so much as a brass farthing. Worse still, he cannot even recover the eighteenpence he has paid for the apparatus. The wary Wiles scouts such a proposal. The trick can be done, for the conjuring manager has done it.

By the way, we note that coin tricks have a peculiar fascination for Mr. Wiles. He has a magnetic device for making money stick, and a most ingenious contrivance for producing "a magnificent shower of coins."

REMEDIAL RUBBISH.**A MAGIC PAIN-AND CASH-REMOVER**

The Medical Remedy Company, 4-5, The Hythe, Staines, are sending out broadcast printed letters in imitation of typewriting, making the old, o'd offer, in return for cash, of a medical prescription out of which the lucky purchaser is to make a fortune. A young lady—a perfect stranger to them—has forwarded to us the following missive:—

You have been referred to us as a lady of energy and ability, and we write you to ascertain whether or not an income of £2 1s. 8d. to £3 2s. 6d. a week would be any incentive for you to engage in a good paying business. This, as you will understand, is a canvassing proposition, but will not require more than one hour of your time every day. We have made a wonderful medical discovery, and instead of placing it on the market ourselves, we have decided to sell the formula to a limited number of energetic ladies who would appreciate the chance of earning a little extra money by a few hours' light work. We call this discovery "Magic Pain and Ache Remover." It is a very simple combination, but a wonderful product, as evinced by the results it secures. It is a sure cure for:—Sciatica, Rheumatism, Asthma, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Biliousness, Sprains, Scalds, Bruises, Toothache, Headache and a number of other ailments. Send us Five Shillings and we will send you the formula for making and compounding "Magic Pain and Ache Remover" with directions for using same. This offer is unprecedented, and we feel sure you will appreciate it and send your order at once.

The recipient was, however, not so simple as was hoped for. The exactitude, to the very pence, of the income which was to accrue from her very light and philanthropic work did not impress her, while she was doubtless puzzled to perceive how a remedy for sciatica and rheumatism could also be a cure for asthma, as well as sprains and scalds. Despite the Company's certitude that their addressee would appreciate their offer and send her order at once, there is still a blank space on the list of those who have parted with their substance to the extent of 5s. in the hope of picking up the shadowy "£2 1s. 8d. to £3 2s. 6d. a week."

SCOTCHING A SCOUNDREL.

WHO WILL CUT SHORT A ROGUE'S LONG CAREER?

We have received several more complaints regarding William Haddon, the Tipton trickster, which show that his fraudulent operations are on a very extensive scale, and are of no recent origin. This slippery individual issues an insignificant sheet offering "bargains" of all kinds. It is from this that he derives any claim to his imposing—in more senses than one—title of "publisher." But a more weighty reason doubtless is that, as he is debarred the columns of the *Bazaar*, *Exchange and Mart* (the proprietors of which have pilloried him), he has to resort to some makeshift to pick up a dishonest livelihood.

One remarkable instance of the success of Haddon's swindling abilities reaches us from a Catford man. Three or four years ago he commenced to enter into very one-sided business relations with the Staffordshire schemer, the net result being that he was left with a parcel of postage stamps, alleged by Haddon to be worth £28, whilst he had sent to Tipton, carriage paid (the wily "publisher" was always very careful to emphasise the necessity of this) household furniture and effects valued at between £200 and £300. We have before us a pile of Haddon's flowery epistles, in which he excuses himself for not forwarding, in exchange for the various articles sent, the goods which his deluded customer had selected from his catalogue—the usual plea is that the thing has just been sold.

A COOL CHEAT.

When the shower of household goods stopped, in consequence of Haddon's excuses failing at length to find credence, he had the audacity to attempt to bully the man into paying for the stamps. As indicating the effrontery of the rascal and the value of his "exchanges," it is sufficient to say that amongst them was a parcel of postcards from Holland, France, Denmark, Belgium and Italy, all complaining that the writers had sent Haddon goods months before but had not received the money!

In the further attempt on the pocket of his victim, the Midland Mercantile Agency was again brought into play; when their efforts proved unsuccessful they were followed by three or four different firms of solicitors. It is to the credit of the profession that, when the "letters before action" brought an explanation of their client's character, the firms unanimously refused to act. In this, besides preserving their reputations, they doubtless saved their labour and pockets—for Haddon had, of course, sent them no money with their retainers. Finding it impossible to impose upon either his long-bamboozled customer or the legal fraternity, the campaign of threats was resumed.

A LONG ROPE ALLOWED.

As in previous cases, he was very profuse in menacing his victim with the baleful offices of the police. The persons upon whose pockets the cunning scoundrel has designs, need, however, have no apprehension on that score. The police are fully aware of his career, as will be seen from the following, written as long ago as March 22nd, 1909, by the Chief Constable of Staffordshire:—

The police are not under any illusion as to W. Haddon's character, and I shall be glad to give every assistance to anyone who will prosecute him. I am not aware that I can do anything in your case unless you should find yourself able and willing to take action in a criminal court against the man. I am not disposed to have Haddon warned by the police, as he has already repeatedly been warned.

In our last article we asked who the Midland Mercantile Agency really are. Documents in our possession make it quite clear that the person who sends out their threatening and absolutely unjustifiable letters, in the attempt to extort money from Haddon's dupes, is *Haddon himself*!

A Tooting Bec man, who sent a couple of rugs, valued at two guineas—without, of course, obtaining the camera to value which had been offered him—sued Haddon in the County Court. Judgment was easily obtained, but upon execution being levied the High Bailiff reported that the shifty scoundrel had "no effects whereon to levy; in lodgings." It is, therefore, obvious that criminal proceedings only will stop this rascal's nefarious career. Who, amongst the hundreds of his victims, is willing to come forward and prosecute? We shall be very pleased to place at the disposal of such a person the numerous and damning documents in our possession.

ORDERLY BOYS.

HOW THEY ARE TREATED BY THE ISLINGTON COUNCIL.

From information received, we have come to the conclusion that the lot of the "orderly boy" is not a happy one—in the Borough of Islington, at any rate.

He is "taken on" at the age of 16, at a wage of 1s. a week; and provided he fulfils his duties faithfully and conducts himself with decorum, is given an annual rise of 1s. a week until his salary reaches the munificent sum of 15s. a week. After one year's service he is required to pass the doctor, and if he proves sound in wind and limb, is provided with a coat, a cape, and a cap. But we believe that even this small contribution to his wardrobe has not been stopped on the score of unnecessary expense.

He starts work at 7.30 in the morning, and labours to keep the thoroughfares decent, sanitary, and clean until 5 p.m. On Saturdays he "knocks off" at 1 o'clock; but a rumour has reached us to the effect that, should he be five minutes late in the morning, he is not "stopped a quarter," but given a day off, with the consequent stoppage of a day's wages.

It will be seen that by the time he has reached his maximum wage of 15s. a week as a "boy," he has become a man of twenty-one. He has then one or two courses open to him. He may look round for a better job, or continue at 15s. a week waiting for a "man's place" under the Borough Council. It may sound incredible, but some have waited seven long years in vain for such an opening. Nine or ten of those still waiting have married on hope and 15s. a week, and are struggling to bring up families!

One particularly poignant case of hardship arising from this condition of affairs has been brought to our notice. A man earning this boy's wage married. In due course, as they say, his wife gave birth to a child. But as he was unable to support her she entered the St. John's Road workhouse. He was promptly summoned before the Committee and asked why he could not maintain his wife. He explained that he was employed by the Council—at which the Committee before whom he stood formed a part—at a wage of 15s. a week. The result was not an increase of salary, but an intimation to all orderly boys over the age of 18 to look out for another job.

It has been suggested that the reason why there are not more promotions from the ranks of orderly boys to men's places is that the foremen engage odd men instead of giving the lads a chance.

Since the Insurance Act spread its beneficent wing over the working community the Islington Borough Council have taken on boys of 14, thereby evading the employers' contribution.

No annual holiday or holiday pay comes the way of the orderly "boy." Islington, one of the richest and biggest of London's Boroughs, cannot afford those small concessions. Instead, presumably, the ratepayers are content to see married men of from 23 to 30 years of age labouring for a boy's wage, and having to fight and struggle to retain that.

Here is a useful field for the labours of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, when he finds leisure from inquiring into the conditions of Indian native life, and has expended his stock of indignation aroused by the South African deportations.

THE LOVER'S DIRGE.

The cash I spend with thee, Dear Heart,
Is like a string of pearls to me;
I count it over, ev'ry coin apart—
My Salary! My Salary!

Each bob a lunch, each half-a-crown,
The knell of some long-cherished spree.
I cannot even spare the humble brown
For office tea, for office tea.

I'd take you gladly to the halls
If you'd go in the gallery;
But you insist upon the first row stalls!
My Salary! My Salary!!!

LEOPOLD SPERO.

THE FAMILY
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF MEDICINE

Two Hundred Thousand Needless Deaths Every Year

Seven Million People Needlessly Ill

WE have it on high medical authority that these deaths and these illnesses are largely due to ignorance. That is to say, a little timely knowledge of the workings of the human body in health and in disease might save thousands of people from premature death, and hundreds of thousands from illness.

To give just that knowledge which sometimes may make all the difference between life and death, and between sickness and health, is the purpose of the

Some of the Eminent Doctors who
have co-operated with the Editor.

Sir JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE, F.R.S.,
Lord Chancellor's Visitor in Lunacy.

Sir JAMES BARR, F.R.C.P.,
the great authority on Rheumatism.

Sir WM. BENNETT, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.,
the well-known Specialist in Varicose.

Sir JOHN BLAND SUTTON, F.R.C.S.,
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Family Encyclopædia of Medicine

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A very important and distinctive feature of the Family Encyclopædia of Medicine lies in the fact that more than 2,000 prescriptions are given in simple language, so that a sufferer can copy out the one required for his particular ailment and hand it to his Chemist to be made up.

Early Symptoms of Serious Diseases

In the case of very serious diseases, such as Consumption and Cancer, great care has been taken to give the most minute details of early symptoms. It is a well-known fact that thousands of people die of these and other diseases every year simply because they do not know, until it is too late, what is the matter with them. Timely reference to the Family Encyclopædia of Medicine may often be the means of detecting a very dangerous disease in its early and curable stages.

Altogether, the Family Encyclopædia of Medicine is as complete as the highest professional skill and seven long years of labour can make it. It is undoubtedly the work that thousands of families have been waiting for, and issued as it is in the convenient form of fortnightly parts at sevenpence each, it should find a place in every home throughout the British Isles.

Part 1. Now Ready Everywhere. 7d.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

**"YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE!"**

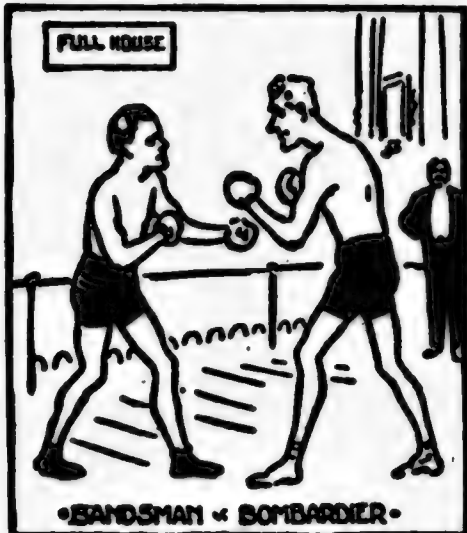
The gallant chief of countless bands
Comes where the cash is rife;
He scouts denial, and demands
"Your money or your life!"

**"PREMIER—PRESIDENT."**

To what base level now, we see,
Can British prestige come;
Dragged down by Asquith Tweedledee,
And Wilson Tweedledum.

**"FANNY! VURRY!"**

Just as the Liberals love a lord,
The Yankees love a king;
When peers or princes raise accord,
They're proud as anything!

**"BANDSMAN—BOMBARDIER."**

We scarcely know what odds to take,
Or give, as draws more near
The contest between Bandsman Blake,
And Wells, the Bombardier.

**"THE DEAR DEPORTED."**

To champion the deported Nine,
MacDonald comes, but gasps
To find, when he begins to whine,
They've turned to stinging wasps.

**"BOBBY'S BY-BYE."**

West Sussex "bobbies" recently
Have had a nasty shock—
Their chief declares that they must be
In bed by ten o'clock!

TRICKY TOUTS.**READ BEFORE YOU SIGN.**

Messrs. Virtue and Co., a London firm with a branch office at Leeds, are strenuously pushing the sale of a medical encyclopædia known as the "Household Physician." We would fain believe that the publishers are unaware of the unscrupulous tactics too often employed by the canvassers in their service. We select one instance from the many complaints. A reader received a call from an agent of the firm, who represented to him that a single payment of 7s. 6d. would cover its cost, whereas, in fact, the publication comprises five volumes at this price. He has now repudiated liability in the matter, but the firm refuse to release him from his obligation, except on payment of five shillings for expenses which they claim to have incurred.

Our friend, indeed, put his name to a document in which the true conditions of the transaction were set out. His explanation of this circumstance may serve as a warning to others. The document in question was signed at the railway station, whither the canvasser had invited the prospective purchaser to accompany him, on the plea that he "must catch the next train." At the moment of signing, the train was actually in the station, and a proper perusal of the form was thus quite impossible. Our correspondent affixed his signature in the full belief that the agent had spoken the truth and that 7s. 6d. was the full limit of his liability. In these circumstances, we suggest that Messrs. Virtue should waive their claim to "expenses" and cause a full inquiry into the conduct of the agent concerned.

NARROW BROADSTAIRS.

[Broadstairs has decided not to allow photographing of bathers.—NEWS ITEM.]

The Summer Girl who loves to lave
Her lissom limbs within the wave,
And, incidentally, to pose
Clad in a minimum of clo'es,
Becomes each season more and more
A common object on the shore.

Garbed in a single-piece costume
That barely gives her breathing room,
And makes us gasp "Now heaven forbid
That straining garment may not rend!"
She dips, she splashes, and reclines
To show her figure's dainty lines.

Fair, animated statu'ry
Whose beauty 'tis a joy to see,
None but a sanctimonious eye
Could evil in your charms descry;
God made you lovely, round and sweet,
From topmost curl to tiny feet!

What though admiring eyes observe
Each dimple and delicious curve?
What though photographers await
To fix your beauty on the plate?
Of wholesome homage, 'tis a sign,
Paid to the female form divine.

W. M.

Our First "Bullets" Prize Increased to £1,000—for This Week Only.

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from your newsagent in advance
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BLOOMER'S BLOOMER.**LUTON LAWYER'S LAMENTABLE LAPSE.**

In an action recently heard at the Luton County Court, his Honour, Judge Wheeler, commented in the severest terms upon the conduct of a Mr. Bloomer, a local solicitor retained for the plaintiff. The litigation had arisen out of a sale of freehold property, in respect of which the plaintiff claimed damages for fraudulent misrepresentation. Dismissing the action and entering judgment for the defendant, the Judge expressed the somewhat startling opinion that the real plaintiff, a Mr. Folds, was probably unaware that an action was in progress, the litigation from beginning to end having most likely been instigated and maintained by Mr. Bloomer himself. This serious suggestion was enforced by the fact that the solicitor had not thought fit to call the plaintiff as a witness to his allegations of fraud, nor did he advance any plausible explanation of his failure so to do.

Unhappily for Mr. Bloomer, his action in the negotiations preceding the trial appears to have been open to the gravest criticism. The defendant, an old lady with scant knowledge of matters legal, was represented by a Bedford solicitor, and the conditions of sale were settled by the two lawyers in the usual way. As soon, however, as it was sought to impeach the transaction on the ground of fraud, Mr. Bloomer broke off professional relations with his Bedford brother and commenced a series of threatening letters to the defendant direct. These epistles, imperfectly understood, may well have occasioned the old lady considerable fright, and it is hard to resist the inference that, in the language of the learned Judge, "they were intended to bring her to heel." The following extract is typical of Mr. Bloomer's methods of persuasion. A claim for damages *with compound interest* had at this time been made:—

I shall to-morrow issue a summons unless in the meantime the matter is settled. You will therefore please give it your immediate attention, unless costs and expenses in addition thereto are to be incurred against you.

Judge Wheeler emphasised the fact that these communications were addressed by a professional man to a lay litigant whose legal adviser was most improperly ignored. He proceeded:—

I have never heard such scandalous and shameless letters. Does any solicitor dare to write to another solicitor that he is claiming damages for misrepresentation with compound interest? No solicitor on the roll would dare to write to a brother solicitor in this way. What was the object?

Whatever the object, the effect was to induce the defendant to make Mr. Bloomer a small monetary offer with a view to the avoidance of costly and troublesome litigation. It was scornfully rejected, a circumstance thus interpreted by the Judge:—

This is Bloomer's own litigation. He has declined to submit the offer to his client, and was the author of this litigation from start to finish. These are simply blackmailing letters written to terrify, and they are discreditable. I tell this man Bloomer he is discredited for ever in this Court.

The case is clearly one for the investigation of the Law Society.

A COMPLIMENT TO "JOHN BULL."**BUSINESS EXECUTED WITH DISPATCH AT THE WAR OFFICE.**

Our recent article with reference to the idiotic trial by court-martial of Private Lewis, of the Dorset Regiment, had immediate effect. It will be remembered that the lad was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment for "not complying with an order," the offence being that he did not return to barracks when ordered to do so. Lewis was at the time actually on furlough, and the order was given him at a time when he was about to deputise for a football player in the Distillery team at Belfast. In dealing with the case we said:—

Lewis must be released at once; after which a full inquiry must be held as to the sanity of certain officers of the Dorset Regiment.

Well, the first portion of our demand was promptly complied with; Lewis was released and the court-martial quashed. We await the mental inquiry.

By the way, Don't Forget to take home "Mary Bull." On Sale Fridays.

PUBS AND CLUBS.**GLARING EVASION OF LICENSING LAW.**

Our recent reference to the hardships sustained by licensed victuallers through the unequal competition of a certain class of club, has prompted a correspondent to remind us that the evil complained of is by no means confined to the West End of London. Writing from Leeds, he directs our attention to circumstances which have come under his observation. He declares that, not long ago, the proprietor of a commodious residential property on the outskirts of the city took steps to furnish his house with every requisite for the equipment of a club. Billiard tables were installed, a bar erected, and a new wing added, comprising reading, smoking and dancing rooms. Shortly before the completion of these improvements, postcards were indiscriminately circulated among local residents, inviting them to membership of a first-class club, the amenities of which were attractively described. Persons desirous of joining were requested to forward half-a-crown, upon receipt of which their names would be submitted for "election." Prospective members were in due course bidden to an opening ceremony, at which they were invited to make unrestricted use of the "club" premises, their names having been duly registered as by law required.

Since then things seem to have gone swimmingly, the "members" doubtless appreciating the manifest advantages of their situation. The original half-crowns have been entered as "first half-year's subscription," and the privileges of select company and elastic hours are held to be cheaply purchased at the price. A president, secretary, steward and treasurer have been nominated, all of whom, especially the last, are under the direct control of the original proprietor.

As far as we know, there is nothing in the conduct of the institution which contravenes the provisions of the existing law. The "club" has doubtless been duly registered, and all requisite particulars furnished to the local justices. These trifling formalities having been complied with, a proprietary "club" of this character is as lawful as any other, and enjoys precisely the same privileges and concessions. Herein lies the palpable grievance of the regular licensed victualler, who is faced with an insidious form of competition which, in the present state of the law, he is rarely able to resist. The profit-seeking proprietor of a "club" is free alike from the heavy management expenses of the hotel proprietor and from the onerous taxation and vigilant supervision to which a regular licensed house is subject. The remedy is clear. The legal definition of a "club" should be rendered far more strict than at present, full management and control by its members being one of the recognised tests of *bona fides*. Obviously the genuine clubman has nothing to fear from such a modification of the law.

"BULLETS" IN BELFAST.**A STARTLING COURT INCIDENT.**

"What does all this mean?" demanded Judge Craig, after scrutinising some apparently unintelligible hieroglyphics on the back of a memorandum of account handed up for inspection in the Recorder's Court, Belfast, a few days ago.

"It is a 'bullet,' your Honour," smilingly answered the witness.

"A bullet!" exclaimed the Judge in fortissimo tones.

The very sound of the word in a court house, where explosions never take a graver form than occasional bursts of rhetoric, caused obvious perturbation.

Junior Counsel, who does not live up in a balloon, elucidated the mystery, explaining to all and sundry that "Bullets" was a newspaper competition of an intellectual and not of a sanguinary character, and that his client, while travelling through the country on an Irish jaunting car, whiled away many an interval in trying to qualify for a JOHN BULL prize.

And thus ended a dramatic episode, one that went to show that, amidst the volleys of the volunteers and rumours of war, people are to be found in Ulster who are not frightened out of their wits and who can enjoy, unfettered and undismayed, the solution of problems which involve no "exclusions" and which are of universal interest.



Slip-on.

Raglan.

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are made in a variety of Browns, Fawns and Greens in either the Raglan or Slip-on Style. Kelvit materials are absolutely weatherproof, and as an additional precaution each Kelvit is lined with a proofed check lining to harmonize with the colour of the coat. In ordering please state which style you prefer.

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These Kelvit Weatherproofs are different from any other Weatherproof sold at the same price—they are, in fact, identical with many sold at twice the figure. Kelvit Weatherproofs are the most versatile overcoats we know. They are just right for any weather and almost any climate, and are guaranteed absolutely weatherproof. We stock them in a range of fittings so wide that we can fit you exactly—and at once.

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In order that you may have the opportunity of judging for yourself the extraordinary value of Kelvits, we will send one on approval on receipt of your remittance for 25/-, and will refund your money without argument or hesitation if the coat is returned undamaged within six days.

When ordering please state Height and Chest Measurement over Waistcoat. For Stout Figures the Waist and Sleeve Measurements should also be given.

CARRIAGE PAID 25/-

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Even if you are earning a good income as a servant now, you can certainly earn a better as your own master.

Cut out this advertisement, write your name and address on it, and we will send you full particulars of our most helpful scheme of payment.

BENTHICK MOTOR SUPPLY CO., LTD.,
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F.1.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE —"

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of human derelicts whose cases, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

CCXCVIII.—DESERTED IN DIRE DISTRESS.

This paragraph will, it is hoped, meet the eye of a man who has deserted his wife and eight children, and we ask him to communicate with us at once. From inquiries we have made, there is no doubt that the family have had more than their share of affliction; but surely that is all the more reason that the breadwinner should act the man, and not leave his practically helpless dependants to face the difficulties he has, to some extent, created. One of his children is blind, and has been sent to an institute, and another is partially blind. The eldest girl, who was able to earn a few shillings a week, has now been compelled to give up work in order to attend to her mother, who is prostrate with grief, and is again to be confined. Application for outdoor relief from the Guardians has been met with a flat refusal—"You and your children must come into the House," they say. Naturally, the poor woman wishes to avoid this course if she possibly can. A pleasing feature of the case is that her neighbours are contributing towards her support, and the poor woman herself bravely says that if she can only weather her coming confinement she feels sure she and her daughter will be able to earn sufficient to provide the necessities of life, even if the deserter does not return. Such a case is surely worthy of a helping hand—and we think we can promise it to her. In the meantime, we want the missing husband to communicate with us. It is not to save his feelings that we refrain from publishing his name.

CCXCIX. A NIGHTMARE.

Another woman left to fight a hard battle, is the widow of an ex-Marine. She is destitute, with seven young children, and is—like the subject of the preceding paragraph—about to give birth to another, but under even more distressing circumstances. Her late husband left the Service with a small pension, and for a long time was unable to obtain work. This preyed upon his mind. For months his wife gave him every attention at home. Her efforts to restore him met with some little success, and eventually he obtained work at a farm. The poor fellow had been in his job only six weeks when he struck his head against the bough of a tree, the effect of which was to turn him into a raving lunatic. In his madness he attempted to kill his wife, but was eventually overpowered and taken to an asylum, where he died in terrible agony. His small pension ceased with his life. The family are now existing in a little cottage in the country. The mother thinks that if she can but get a little assistance she will be able to keep her young ones together. She pleadingly tells us that the eldest child is 14, and that they will soon all grow up and help her. She dreads parting with them, as she must if she goes into the workhouse. This pathetic case has aroused much local sympathy. The details read like a horrible nightmare. Will our readers enable us to awaken the poor creature to brighter and happier things?

CCC.—HER LAST CHANCE.

We plead this week for yet one more widow and her little ones. But the case is so sad that we cannot resist the appeal she makes to us. Her husband died on February 14th in a Liverpool slum. He was for many years a builder's foreman, but for several months before his death was unable to do any work whatever on account of chronic asthma. Through this illness the poor wife nursed him; but at last he died, leaving her penniless, with five children, the eldest of whom is 14 years of age. To make matters worse, there is in this case also another to be

born shortly. Whatever furniture and goods they had have long since been sold to provide the bare necessities of life, and at the present moment the family possess only what they stand up in. It would seem that there is nothing for them but the workhouse; but a means of escape is suggested by a sister, who lives in Birmingham. She says that if we will only pay the train fares from Liverpool to there for the family, she will gladly nurse her sister back to health, after which she will perhaps be able to get work. The poor widow pitifully appeals to us to help her in this her "only chance." It is a poor chance. However, it may turn out all right, especially as her children will soon be able to go to work. Who will assist us to give it to her?

A GENEROUS OFFER.

Our readers will remember that in our issue of February 14th, under the heading of "A Cancer Victim's Plea," we published an appeal from a young man awaiting his end in a London hospital, whose agonies were intensified by the knowledge that he has a wife and three children, for whom he has been quite unable to provide. The following letter from the secretary of a well-known gentleman connected with the music-hall profession speaks for itself:—

Mr. ——— desires me to acknowledge with thanks the reports with reference to your case No. CCXC. He has read them, and wishes to notify you that he will be sending you £1 a week for the next three months for this special case, leaving it in your hands to make use of it as you consider best under the circumstances.

The general opinion that public entertainers and those connected with that profession are extremely charitable is, indeed, truer than most popular sayings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have received the following, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCXXXI.—P. H., 2s. 6d.
CCXXXVII.—"A Sympathiser," 1s. 6d.
CCXXXVIII.—Mrs. D., 10s.
CCXXXIX.—P. A. B. J., 1s. 6d.
CCXC.—"Ave," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. R., 2s. 6d.; "Bedford," 2s.; "Lily," 1s.; "Betty," 5s.; E. B., 1s.; A. A. M., 1s.
CCXCII.—"Dajo," 5s.; E. M. H., 3d.; W. J. H., 2s. 6d.; E. A. T., 1s.; A. W. K. B., 2s. 6d.; J. C. S., 6d.; M. W., 6d.; "Under a Bushel," 2s. 6d.; L. J. H., 1s.; "Mill Worker," 2s. 6d.; S. C., 2s.; E. G. M., 5s.; "Swifted," 2s. 6d.; "Lady Smith," 4d.; G. L., 2s. 6d.; E. F., 2s. 6d.; H. S. (North Shields), 1s.; A. W. M., 2s.; E. T. T., 5s.; "Labourite," 1s.; M. J. A., 2s.; "Yorkshire Lad," 3s. 3d.; "Sympathiser," 5s.; F. M. W., 5s.
CCXCIII.—E. L. L., 1s.; "N. O. 51," 5s.; A. H., 2s.; Mrs. E. A. A., 1s.; "A Friend of E. A. A.," 2s.; "Startled," 2s.
CCXCIV.—E. M., 10s.; J. A. W., 1s.; W. J., 5s.; D. E., 1s.; H. R. W., 1s.; A. W. K. B., 5s.; "Stampe," 2s. 6d.; T. W., 5s.
CCXCV.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Alas," 2s. 6d.; "Mare," 2s. 6d.; "Churchman," 5s.; "Chiswick," 1s.; "Florence," 1s. 6d.; G. P., 5s.; H. R. W., 1s.
CCXCVI.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Wamba," 1s.; R. F. B., 1s.; L. E. S., 2s. 6d.; "Churchman," 5s.; J. B., 4s. 6d.; "Chiswick," 1s.; A. S. Y., 1s. 6d.; "Tom," 2s.; H. R. W., 1s.
CCXCVII.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Judge Not, etc.," 2s. 6d.; A. I. J., 2s. 6d.; E. B., 10s.; M. M., 8s.; "Whiskers," 1s.; "Churchman," 5s.; A. S. Y., 1s.; J. V. M., 2s. 6d.; "Johnnie," 8s.; "Chiswick," 6d.; "Broad," 5s.; M. K. V., 1s.; "Florence," 1s. 6d.; "Piedras," 2s. 6d.; "Antipas," 1s.; H. R. W., 1s.; H. L., 1s.; "The Two Ardleighs," 5s.

We have divided £10 from the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund between CCXCV and CCXCVI.

We have also apportioned £10 from the JOHN BULL Derby Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—CCLXI., 6d.; CCLXXXVII., 1s.; and CCXCVII., 1s.

Look out for an Amazing Prize Offer in Next Week's "Mary Bull."

"If Gamage were my partner"

HOW THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT HAS BROUGHT HIM
TO SUCCESS CAN HELP OUR
READERS THERE.



Mr. A. W. Gamage.

NOT so many years ago the man whose picture appears on this page was the proud proprietor of a half-share in a tiny little shop in Holborn with a frontage of not more than a few feet. Now that business occupies two huge blocks of buildings, and is being added to every day. And its owner has hundreds of other interests as well.

Moreover, this wonderful success is due to his own efforts. He has no outside "influence" to help him on the road to success. His progress has been due to one thing and one thing only, to his business knowledge, the knowledge that tells one when to buy and how to sell, when to lay down new plant and when to retrench, that shows the way out of difficulties and the best means of seizing opportunities.

What would it mean to you?

What would it not mean to you if you could have such a man with you every day in your work to help you in your difficulties, to show you the way to seize your opportunities? You must realise that it might mean all the difference between just the mediocre measure of success that attends most hard-working men and the *real* success that comes to the few. Only a few days ago Andrew Carnegie, the great millionaire, told a reporter that "merely doing your duty is not sufficient. You must work with your head, and in addition to obeying orders *work out projects of your own.*"

Now, how are you to lay those projects, if you have no past experience to help you or no substitute for it, such as you would have if only you could have a man like Gamage for your partner?

How can you have it?

Do you know that you *can* have Gamage for your partner, at least as far as the benefit of his advice is concerned? And not only Gamage, but also Sir Joseph Lyons, the famous restaurateur, and Richard Burbidge, managing director of Harrod's Stores; and S. F. Edge, the famous expert on making and selling motor cars, who started as a cycle racer; and James Murray Allison, who in six or seven years has reached the top of the tree in the advertising profession, and is now advertisement manager of *The Times*; and John Lawrie, managing director of William Whiteley, Ltd., and many others.

And the way you can get the benefit of these men's knowledge is by getting the "Business Encyclopædia" and by referring to it whenever a business difficulty faces you. Whatever your difficulty, however hard it seems, you will be able to solve it by the advice given in the "Business Encyclopædia." For it is written by men who have solved similar difficulties themselves, including all those mentioned above, and many more besides, whose names will be sent free upon request.

Is it any wonder, then, that over 80,000 successful business men and great business firms are already using the work? Can there be any doubt that you will be better able to succeed if you also have it by your side to give you advice in your difficulties, and to lend you confidence in your decisions?

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Moreover, you now have an actual tangible opportunity of working under this great business man. For Messrs.

A. W. Gamage, Ltd., are offering a situation at £200 a year to some wideawake business man or woman who owns the "Business Encyclopædia." For they know that the man who studies this work is the best possible man for a responsible position in their firm, and as they have such a position to fill they are offering it to the winner of an examination in business knowledge. There is also an alternative prize of £100 in cash and eleven other prizes.

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In this column you will find a special coupon for readers of *John Bull*, which entitles you to full particulars of the Gamage examination and a free copy of an interesting book on business, that may set you the right road to business success, just as it has set many others of your fellow readers. In itself, it is of considerable value to any business man, for it contains actual facsimile specimens, showing how to draw up important legal documents, such as wills, agreements, leases, indentures, etc., etc.

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Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet, or a profit and loss account you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Surely you realise the help this knowledge would mean.

TWO OPINIONS.

Messrs. J. S. FRY AND SONS, Ltd., Bristol, write:

"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work."

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This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book on Business Success, but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and the specially low terms to our readers.

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Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." Also particulars of the Gamage situation.

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(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address
.....

"BONUS" FRAUDS.**HONEST TEA IS THE BEST POLICY.**

Among the concerns exploiting the "bonus" system is the so-called Reliable Tea Company, of 58, Wakefield Road, Bradford. A local correspondent tells us an interesting story. His wife was persuaded to embark upon the scheme and had already purchased 6 lbs. when she fell ill—not in consequence of drinking the Company's preparation, but of a disease for which, we are glad to say, they cannot be held accountable. The husband, therefore, in the presence of his sister, saw the female canvasser when next she came. She informed him that his wife's name had been drawn for a bonus of £4, which would be paid ten days later, at the same time inducing him to make a further purchase of 3 lbs., on the plea that it would raise the order to the qualifying amount, the deficiency being due to the agent not having called for a fortnight. She then asked whether there would be any objection to the name of the recipient of the Company's bounty being advertised in a handbill, and was assured that no exception would be taken.

TIME—AND MONEY—FLIES.

Our readers will not be surprised to learn that the date appointed arrived and departed without the plausible canvasser bringing the money. The calm resignation of the bamboozled householder was disturbed, after the lapse of another ten days, by a visit from a male agent of the Company, who called at a time when it was unlikely that the head of the house would be at home, and asserted to our correspondent's sister that the bonus would be paid after another fourteen days, and that meantime it was necessary to take more tea. On a protest being raised, the condition was altered—if twice the amount of tea was taken, the period of suspense would be halved. The tempting offer was, however, declined, and next day our friend called at the Company's address to endeavour to bring them to book. On asking for an explanation, the man who saw him said that the agents had no authority to make any statements, and, after pointing out a paragraph to that effect in the handbill, suggested that the victim might prosecute the canvasser; he, however, declined to give her name and address, though he must, of course, have been aware of her identity. He also refused to give his own name, until told that, should he persist in this attitude, a policeman would be called. He then gave it as Fred Snowden, and added that he was the "manager." He declined to produce the books—which would, or should, show the order of the names of those who were, in rotation, entitled to the bonus; and asserted that the customers were not advised that they were to receive the money. This was, however, directly contradicted by an agent present, who admitted that the customers were always asked beforehand whether they would object to their names being advertised.

A CLEVER TRICK.

The fact that the canvasser had failed for two weeks to call with the tea looks as though the cunning people running the bonus trick in Bradford had changed their view that their deception had been seen through by their customer, and (as has been done in so many other places by similar tricksters) their decision to "forfeit" her claim to the bonus on the ground that the tea had not been taken regularly for three weeks! Purchasers treated in this way have, when going to the offices of the concerns running such ramps, found that it was impossible to buy the stuff there, and thus save their threatened "bonuses," and the unbusinesslike appearance of the "Reliable" Company's premises is certainly suggestive.

The paragraph disclaiming responsibility for the statements of the agents is, of course, in the literature of all the firms which exist by means of the lies told by their canvassers. There is, however, clear liability to refund the difference between the real value of the tea and the excessive price paid for it, as the law that a principal cannot profit by the fraud of his agent has recently been signally vindicated in several remarkable cases; while, following the conviction of the agents in a "bonus" fraud, the principal himself was also found guilty and sentenced to a term of imprisonment which will, we hope, convince him that, after all, honest tea is the best policy.

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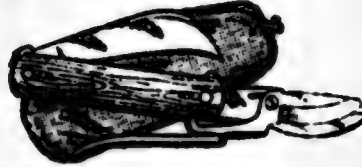
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Here is the story. Mrs. Rawlings says:—"When my little boy was eleven months old I found one day that he had lost the power of one arm, and within a few hours both his legs were paralysed too. We had advice at once, and were told that it was a severe case of Infantile Paralysis. The medicine prescribed, however, did no good.

"Then we took him to hospital with no better success, and after that an institution for such complaints. Here they applied strong electrical treatment, and also massaged him, but no treatment did any good, and small hope was entertained of recovery at all.

"Horace was very nervous, and used to dread the battery. He cried every time, and as the treatment was doing no good I left off taking him to the institution. I had heard of Dr. Cassell's Tablets, but was told they were not suitable for children, so I went on with the prescribed medicine. And all that time the child was getting weaker and thinner. We could see his shoulder joints working, and his legs were just like little drum sticks. Then I learned that Dr. Cassell's Tablets could be given to children, so I got some at once, and very soon there was improvement. Now my child is in excellent health, and walks well."

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CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

[This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.]

To the Right Hon. Louis Botha, P.C., Prime Minister South Africa.

SIR,—You will notice that I omit your usual military title. You are no longer a soldier, and we will not confuse the issues of peace and war. Your first consignment of "deports" is to hand, and, as far as I know, they are having an excellent time. It is not with their fate, however, that I am primarily concerned, neither will I stay to dilate upon the events which preceded their departure from your shores. My purpose is rather to ascertain your present plans for the better government of that part of his Majesty's dominions where, for the moment, you hold place and power. I warn you that the defects of your administration have excited widespread misgiving here at home, and you will not be held blameless should worse betide. I adjure you to bend your utmost efforts to the attainment of industrial peace and civic order upon an enduring basis of justice and goodwill. The task may be difficult. Set to, like a man.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Edward Grey, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,—I fully appreciate the delicacy of your official duties, and, as you know, it is not my practice to worry you with needless criticism. Just a word, however, on the alarming situation which has arisen in Mexico, where one British subject has already been done to death, and many others go in daily peril of their lives. I have repeatedly deplored the failure of the United States Government to restore order upon their southern frontier, and I cannot feign surprise at the tragic outcome of their inaction. The British public—apt, when roused, to be intolerant of diplomatic difficulties—will demand that, at all costs, British life and property shall be safeguarded throughout the zone of war. You are now in active negotiation with Washington, and I look to you to voice the national sentiment in terms which cannot be misunderstood. It must be made clear beyond cavil that, if the United States are unable or unwilling to protect our citizens, then Britain can, and will.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Barnet Kenyon, M.P., House of Commons, Westminster.

DEAR LEGISLATOR,—You have been having quite an exciting time. First of all, there was the Chesterfield by-election, where, though as honest a toiler as ever breathed, you were disowned by the "Labour" Party, with the result that you romped in at the head of the poll. Once in Parliament, you apparently felt you could afford to be generous, and, with a view to heaping coals of fire on rude Ramsay's head, you offered to sign the "Labour" ticket and to accept the Party whips. Even so, there was no end to your troubles, for a nasty hitch arose in respect of your election expenses, which no one seemed willing to defray. This matter has at length been settled—I trust its adjustment will not involve the setting up of a Select Committee—and now you are snugly ensconced on the Liberal benches, but how long you will stop there, Heaven only knows! You appear not to care, where you sit, as long as you are out of the draught.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., House of Commons.

DEAR MR. SNOWDEN,—Your appeal to the Prime Minister on behalf of the destitute blind does you credit. It is, indeed, a scandal that these helpless ones should find no greater comfort in our midst than pauper relief or casual charity can afford. Your plea for some well-considered scheme of national assistance should command the support of all sections of the House of Commons, and the active sympathy of the community at large. I trust that you will pursue the matter to a humane conclusion, employing all that persuasive force of which you are an acknowledged master. Your gifts could scarce be devoted to a worthier end.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Management Committee, Grantham Hospital, Lincolnshire.

DEAR SIR,—There is a Management Committee at the Grantham Hospital, I presume, and if so there seems to be a clear case for public explanation in regard to the regulations governing the admission of patients. I refer particularly to the evidence at the coroner's inquest on George Tyler, a man who was accidentally knocked down at night by a motor car on Spittlegate Hill. The chauffeur took the man in his car to the Hospital, where he appears to have been received by the Matron, Miss Eaton, not only with facetious insolence, but with an astounding lack of understanding as to the necessities of the case. "I wish you would not knock people down at this time" (of night), was her greeting, as reported by the chauffeur. Though she was told the man was "breathing," and bleeding from a wound over the eye, she neither gave instructions for his admission nor went out to see him. True, there was not a doctor in attendance, but surely there were means at hand of communication with one? In any case, she told the chauffeur that "As it was Dr. Robb's week, he had better go to him." The man therefore ran his car to the house of Dr. Robb, who, having apparently found the man unconscious and suffering from extensive injuries, at once ordered him back to Hospital. "The patient was back in ten minutes," the Matron explained to the Coroner, "and when she saw him she was surprised he was so frightfully hurt. Had the chauffeur told her the man was unconscious, she would have taken him in." I submit to you, sir, that this suggests an extraordinary state of things. Is it to be understood that it is the rule of the Hospital that only unconscious patients are to be admitted, or is this singular, aberrant lady left in responsible charge to exercise a discretion? As this is a matter of the gravest public interest to the people of Grantham, I suggest that the answer of your Committee should not be delayed.

JOHN BULL.

To Ernest Baggallay, Esq., Metropolitan Magistrate, Lambeth.

DEAR CADI,—It isn't often that I have much to complain of in the decisions of the experienced magistrates of the Metropolis, but whatever were you thinking of when you let off such a cowardly ruffian as George Watkins Rowland, music-hall artist, of Benedict Road, Brixton, for three shillings? You recollect the case—the brute went into a laundry receiving shop at which he had previously left a shirt, and because the girl behind the counter told him she "had not received it from the laundry, but that it would probably arrive with the next load," knocked her down with a punch in the eye and then ran out of the shop. How can such a paltry fine be adequate punishment for so outrageous and so unprovoked an assault on a defenceless woman? Is it your idea that, for a small charge of three shillings, a man who doesn't get his other shirt from the laundry precisely when he expects it is at liberty to give the girl behind the counter a black eye? Why, sir, he couldn't sleep in the open air or walk about without visible means of subsistence as inexpensively, and if you don't put up the price of black eyes in Brixton there will be such a horrible boom in the market that very few counter girls will be out of mourning. The proper decision in the case of Mr. George Watkins Rowland would have been seven days' hard, without the option.

JOHN BULL.

To Albert Ballinger, Aged 13, Winshill, Burton-on-Trent.

DEAR ALBERT,—I am very pleased with you. The other day you were walking across a field near your home, when you saw some children, smaller than yourself, attacked by several fierce bullocks. You did not dream of running away, as some boys of your age might have done. Instead you ran to the kiddies' assistance as fast as you could, and rushing at the enraged animals with an empty mail-cart, you scattered them in all directions. Happily, you were not hurt; but it is good to know that you did not stay to count the risks. How grateful to you the parents of those children must be, and how proud your own father and mother must feel! I am not going to say anything more. Boys like you don't much like praise, but I should like to shake your hand.

JOHN BULL.

Another Single-Week Football Contest. £1,500 for an all-correct Forecast. See page 33.

WANTED—A “SEAT!”

(The Leaders of the Radical Party are trying to induce one of their followers to vacate his Seat to make room for Mr. Masterman, the Ministerial “Maid-of-all-work.”)



ASQUITH (the Conductor): "Will any gentleman give up his seat to oblige a lady?"

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

THE NINE.

Boy: Father!!
 FATHER (looking over top of newspaper): Wot's the rar?
 Boy (points at contents bill on platform): Wot's that?
 FATHER: Wot?
 Boy: W'y, that—THE NINE SAY NO.
 FATHER: W'y, that's wot the nine deported Labour organisers sed. (Resumes reading.)
 Boy: Father!
 FATHER: Wot's it nar?
 Boy: Wot's deported mean, father?
 FATHER: W'y, shoved art—sent 'ome.
 Boy: Oh! . . . I say, father, then you was deported last night, wasn't you?
 FATHER: Eh? . . . Watter you know erbart it, eh?
 Boy: Nuthink. On'y I 'eard you tellin' mother they shoved you outer the "Royal George" and Jim Smith an' Alf Patterson brought you 'ome. So you was deported, wasn't you?
 FATHER: 'Ere, donchew awsk ser menny queschuns, young'un, else I'll interjuice yore tailor to my shoemaker.
 Boy (after short silence): We're wos they deported from father?
 FATHER: Souf Africa.
 Boy: Woffor?
 FATHER: Hagitatin'.
 Boy: Wot, like wot you tell mother she does?
 FATHER (glaring): Wotjer mean?
 Boy: I wos on'y thinkin' wot you sed to mother this mornin' w'en she wos a-tellin' of you erbout larst night. You told 'er she wos always hagitatin' of you, didn't cher, father?
 FATHER: Will you keep quiet fur five minits? I'm readin'. Carncher see?
 Boy (after further short silence): Father!
 FATHER: Wot, again? Wot's it nar?
 Boy: Wot did the nine say no for?
 FATHER: 'Cos they thought it best, I s'pose.
 Boy: Some people can't say no, can they, father?
 FATHER: Don't tork ser silly! 'Corse they can!
 Boy: Wot, everybody?
 FATHER: Yuss, I tell yer!
 Boy: But I've 'eard mother say you can't say no.
 FATHER: You don't unnerstand. Be quiet, there's a good boy, an' let yer farver read.
 Boy (after a more prolonged silence): Father!
 FATHER: Wot, worryin' again! Well?
 Boy: Wot dil the nine say no about?
 FATHER: W'en they wos awsked to land from the ship wot brought them from Souf Africa.
 Boy: And didn't they?
 FATHER: Yes.
 Boy: Wot, after they'd said no? Why did they?
 FATHER: 'Cos they changed their minds, I s'pose.
 Boy: Wot, their own minds, father?
 FATHER: 'Corse their own minds! 'Oo else's?
 Boy: 'Ave they got minds of their own, then, father?
 FATHER: Yuss, yuss! Everybody's got their own mind—
 Boy: Then w'y 'aven't chew, father?
 FATHER: Wot's that? 'Ere, wotter yer drivin' at this time?
 Boy: Wot did mother mean w'en she told Mrs. Pitcher you 'adn't got no mind of yore own, then?
 FATHER: Oh, she did, did she. Don't chew take ser much notice of wotcher muvver ses. You don't unnerstand.
 Boy: But then she'll be cross with me like wot she is with you, father.
 FATHER: 'Ow's that?
 Boy: W'y, she's always sayin' you don't take no notice of wot she ses.
 FATHER: W'y doncher look art o' the winder an' amooap yerself instead o' torking ser much? You'll make yerself tired, an' then yer muvver'll blame me.
 Boy: Wot did mother mean w'en she sed you wos born tired, father? Wos you?
 FATHER: 'Old yer tongue, jeer?—Thank Cawd, 'ere's Shoreditch. Come on—art yer git!
 [Right, forward!]



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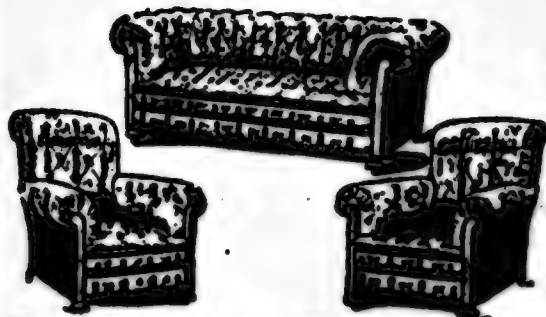


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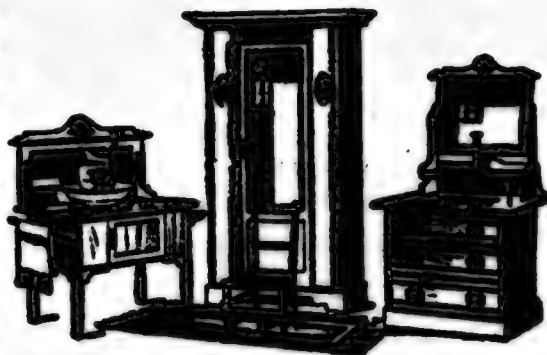
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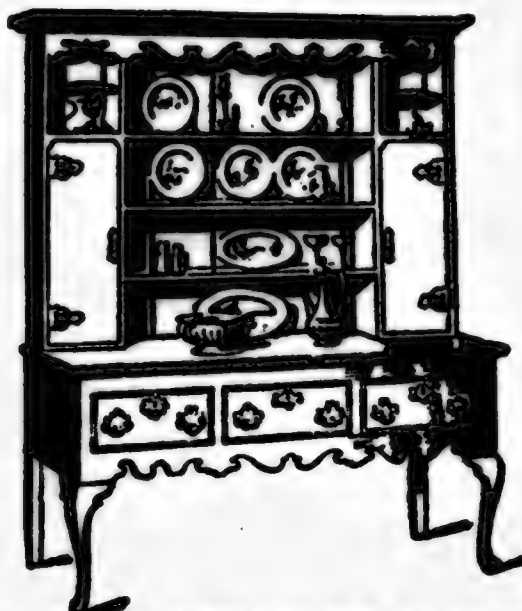
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YOUNG SNOBLEIGH: "Ya-as, I have a brothah an officer in the Guards! What?"
OLD BLUFF: "South-Western, or London, Chatham and Dover?"

THE JOY WHEEL.

By JOYFUL JAMES.

[Below will be found the first of a series by an irresponsible contributor—who has no more "mission" (except that of mirth-making), than has the exhilarating pastime whose name he has adopted for his title.]

Life is a Joy Wheel ride,
 We cling, and we clutch and we grip.
 A whirr and a whizz! Then we glide
 Off the wheel with a slithery slip.
 Our life is all pleasure to-day,
 But comes the awaking to-morrow,
 And the ride that is joyful and gay
 Has its finish in pathos and sorrow.

"Joy cometh with the morning." Does it? Not if you have had a good time the night before. There is no gladness in an aching head, and precious little comfort in your trousers pocket. One and sevenpence ha'penny to carry you to the end of the week! A dark brown tasto and a mazy brain as you make your spurt for the guard's van. The pipe and pouch remain untouched in the overcoat pocket, and Solo, on the 8.29, cannot evoke the gladsome voice of a "Prop." Floating specks get tangled up with the figures in the ledger, and life is as drear and dismal as a funeral on a wet day.

Don't give way. Behind the hills, which are clothed in mist, the sun is shining somewhere. Some day soon it will shine for you, and, when the Liver Pills and the Glauber Salts have done their work, the sun of optimism will dispel the dark clouds of melancholia, and you will rush for a place on the Joy Wheel of life.

Now do you understand why my articles will be headed "The Joy Wheel"? It will be my aim to bring merriment and mirth into your daily life.

Hence to business. This is the age of "Something for Nothing." The Patent Medicine advertisement reads: "Send twopence for packing and postage, and you will receive Absolutely Free of All Cost," &c., &c. Even more seductive is the rhythm: "Your Rheumatism relieved in 48 hours or your money back." Better still do I like the caption: "Send no money! We trust you." How anyone can send no money is beyond my understanding, but the blessed goodwill of the advertiser purges every such advertisement of its sins against the rules and regulations of King's English.

Why should there be unhappiness and sorrow in this world, when mankind's benefactors are as numerous as caraway seeds in the Sunday cake? All those terrible maladies which bear the caudal appendix of "itis"—phlebitis, bronchitis, meningitis, rheumatoid arthritis, synovitis—need not be tolerated for more than forty-eight hours. "Your cure will cost you nothing," says the advertiser, and all advertisers are truthful men. Hold tight! I'm inspired.

No more need mother make a song
 Of Mary's Dance St. Vitus,
 Nor need the toiler limp along
 With Rheumatoid Arthritis.
 No wheezy Bronchial Tubes need croak
 With spasm and squirm asthmatic,
 For Æsculapian advert. cloak
 Cough cures and balms ecstatic.
 For Stomach Troubles, Doctor Squills
 Is Nature's own dispenser,
 For Liver Ills we've Goodman's pills,
 We've Pureman's Kidney cleanser
 Bucolic Giles, a Simon Pure
 In corduroys and gaiters,
 Will sing the song "No Pay—No cure"
 Whilst hoeing up the "taters."

For This Week Only. £1,000 for the best "Bullet." See page 38.

You do not know how good a Virginia Cigarette can be bought at 10 for 3d. until you have tried "Black Cat" Cigarettes.

Get a packet to-day—all tobacconists sell "Black Cat." You'll notice the difference with the first whiff—the very smoke has an added fragrance—there's a mildness and satisfaction that you have not known before.

We want our "Black Cat" friends to recommend "Black Cat." To recompense them for their trouble—for this personal advertising—and for helping us in our checking system, we are enclosing a coupon in some of the packets, on receipt of which, duly filled in, we will send you Half-a-crown. Look out for this coupon with instructions—it may be in the next packet you buy.



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To His Majesty
King George V.

ONE OF THE PENALTIES OF SUCCESS IS ENVY

which often provokes rivals to make false and malicious statements, which are repeated by others in ignorance. Rumours were circulated to the effect that Cerebos Salt was not real salt and that it contained properties which might be injurious.

Being perfectly willing at all times to prove their bona fides and the qualities of their manufacture openly and before the highest tribunals, the Cerebos Company recently brought an action against a newspaper for libelling the Company and its product.

The action was heard before the Lord Chief Justice of England and an interesting account was given of the production of Cerebos Salt, from the time it is drawn from the rock salt, a thousand feet below the surface of the Company's estate, until, after thrice purifying, a snowy stream of pure Cerebos Salt is automatically weighed into the well-known tins. All these processes are carried out in closed tubes and vessels, the salt never once being touched by hand.

Evidence was given by a prominent Medical Officer of Health and Examiner in Hygiene, who stated that he had used Cerebos Salt for many years, after having carefully examined it. The small proportion of phosphates it contained kept the salt dry, improved it as an article of diet, and were distinctly advantageous to the system. He further stated that Cerebos Salt dissolved at once in the human body.

A well-known professor of medicine in one of the English Universities gave similar evidence, and stated that Cerebos Salt had been used in his own household with his full approval since it was first manufactured.

After a lengthy summing up by the Lord Chief Justice, the Jury gave a verdict in favour of the Cerebos Company, with damages and costs.

A report of the trial will be forwarded on receipt of a post-card mentioning this paper, addressed to Cerebos Limited, Tower Hill, London, E.C.

CURTAIN RAISERS.

THE FOUNTAIN PEN.

ACT I.

SCENE: Shabby bed-sitting-room in humble lodging house. Emaciated tenant discovered crouching over meagre fire, reading advertisement columns of newspaper by light of guttering candle. A victim of illness and misfortune, he reads aloud, periodically interrupted by a cough.

THE VICTIM: Clerk—clerk—clerk. Nothing but clerks. Home employment of some kind is my only hope. Else—ah, well! What is this? (Reads aloud):

HOME EMPLOYMENT.—Thirty shillings a week earned by addressing envelopes.—Apply by letter to —, London, W.C.

Riches beyond the dreams of avarice! Blessed sum! What would it not mean to me? Where is the pen—the paper? I will write, and pray, as I have never prayed before, that something may come of it.

ACT II.

SCENE: No. — Road, London, W.C., the offices of the Watercan Advertising Co. PROPRIETOR discovered opening the morning mail.

PROPRIETOR: The advertisement doesn't draw so well as it used to, Smith.

SMITH: Well, you know why, don't you?

PROPRIETOR: JOHN BULL, I suppose. That damned paper's making it more difficult for a smart man to earn an honest living every day.

SMITH (grinning): What sort of livin', guv'nor?

PROPRIETOR: Well, a living, then, since you're so infernally particular.

SMITH: Oh, I ain't particular, guv'nor. Only we might as well call things by their names—between you and me.

PROPRIETOR: Well, see to this lot, will you? I'm going round by the bank, so I'll pay in these postal orders myself. Got enough preliminary letters to go on with? . . . That's all right. Got 'em off early. [Exit.]

SMITH (picking up VICTIM's letter): 'Ere's a shaky fist! Old, or ill, I should think. He ought to be good for three and a tanner. This sort—reg'lar "hard-ups"—usually are.

ACT III.

SCENE: As in Act I.

VICTIM (feverishly opening envelope): It is! An answer to my application. (Reads):

In reply to your letter, the work we have to offer is addressing envelopes, for which, if your work proves satisfactory, we pay 10s. a thousand. Before sending you a supply of envelopes and instructions, we must ask you to send us 3s. 6d. (plus 1d. stamp for postage), to safeguard us and to prevent persons who have no intention of doing business for us obtaining our goods out of mere curiosity. By return we will send you a supply of envelopes and one of our fountain pens, on 30 days' approval. If you should decide not to accept our offer, and return the goods to us in the same condition as when you received them, we will refund the 3s. 6d. in full.

Dare I risk it? (Draws a few shillings from his pocket.) Five shillings. All I possess in the world. All that there is between me and the street. But it must be genuine. Surely no one would have the heart to defraud the poorest, as all must be who pray for such work. I will send it.

ACT IV.

SCENE: The same. Two days later.

THE VICTIM (examining contents of package): A shoddy stylo—two packets of inferior envelopes. To whom am I to address them? Ah, here is a note: "To be addressed to tradesmen and others in your locality." Bah! it is a fraud—a dastardly swindle! 30s. a week—and two small packets of envelopes! Curse them! I will send the rubbish back and demand the return of my 3s. 6d.—my 3s. 6d., which means bread to me!

ACT V.

SCENE: The same. Two days later. Enter slatternly woman with package. She speaks:

The postman says this 'ere 'as bin refused, and there is tuppence to pay on it.

VICTIM (recognising his own handwriting): They have refused to accept back the pen! It is a trick—a vile trick! My 3s. 6d.—my 30s. a week—gone, gone! May God— (Ends in a violent attack of coughing.) (CURTAIN.)

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LOOK ahead for ten years. Can you? Have you planned your life?

That is what you must do to succeed. You must map out your road in life and then equip yourself to pursue that road.

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We will show you how.

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BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

The basic principle of the Party System is bribery and corruption.

Bribery, in the political sense, as we conceive it, consists in tempting a chosen section of the electorate with promises of material advantages in some shape or form.

Corruption, in the same sense, and also as conceived by us, comprises the arousing of Party passion and class prejudice in the minds of selected members of the electoral body.

The **TORIES** appeal to the financial greed of the monied classes; they warn the possessors of wealth that the growth of Radical and Socialistic power is a menace to property; they remind the ambitious and industrious middle classes that the aim of Radicalism is to snatch from them what little social prestige yet remains to them and to drag them down to the dead level of labour under a bureaucratic government; they remind the small shop-keeper and the recipient of £160 a year and upwards that their hard-earned income is taxed to the hilt to provide the thriftless and the idle masses with maintenance during unemployment, comforts and luxuries when in sickness and pensions when past work—benefits which able-bodied workers should be capable of providing for themselves.

All this, regarded from the higher standpoint, is bribery.

The **RADICALS** are no less sinners. Their appeal to the cupidity of the masses is blunt and undisguised. They advocate and urge the despoiling of the rich for the benefit of the poor; they foreshadow the cutting up of great estates, and the wholesale distribution of the portions amongst the millions; they promise rare and refreshing fruit; they invoke delectable visions of a land flowing with milk and honey, studded with first-class hotels for the use and enjoyment of a populace subsidised with thirty shillings at birth, supported during youth and middle-age by a government allowance during industrial idleness, and made comfortable with a pension from the age of sixty.

Their appeal from first to last is to one of the most sordid sentiments that afflict humanity—the well-nigh universal desire to get something for nothing. They lightly promise to reduce the cost of armaments so that the proceeds may be used as doles to their supporters, utterly indifferent to national security. They undertake to disestablish a Church, not so that it may be more free to fulfil its spiritual purpose amongst the people, but with the idea of confiscating its income and diverting it into channels likely to win electors to their policy.

All this, again, is bribery.

The **LABOUR PARTY**, so far as they are distinct from official Liberalism, are even greater sinners. They make no pretence to patriotism. They are out solely to win material advantages, indifferent to the interests of the classes they absurdly imagine to be inimical to their own. They at least have the virtue of honesty in the expression of their aims. Nevertheless, the ear-tickling of their leaders and agitators is bribery, inasmuch as it constitutes an appeal to the pocket, and little else.

The **HOME RULERS** are in a class to themselves. They know they have nothing to bribe the English electors with. But they are aware that to thousands of Nationalists the fruition of the Home Rule dream will mean place and plunder under the Dublin Government.

This, though subtle, is bribery too.

Indifferent to the interests of the community as a whole, the four great Parties stand self-convicted of sordid selfishness. But, in the idea of **BUSINESS GOVERNMENT**, we have a higher aim. We believe that, by the abolition of the Party System and the substitution of a governing and legislative system based upon mutual consideration, mutual understanding, and common sense, the interests of all can be served, to the injury of none; and that under such a regime a solid and united nation can, and will, arise, compared with which the Britain of the past, though great and glorious, will prove to have been but a faint foreshadowing of the greatness and the glory that is to be.

The first instalment of Hall Caine's celebrated novel, "The Woman Thou Gavest Me," will appear on March 8th in *Reynolds's Newspaper*. The story is of intense human interest, and we congratulate our Sunday contemporary upon securing it for its readers.

THE JAMAICA COPRA AND ESTATES COMPANY, LIMITED.

Sir John Farley, presiding at the statutory meeting held at the offices of the Company, Winchester House, E.O., on Monday, March 2nd, said: "Our meeting to-day is, as you are aware, a purely formal one in compliance with the Companies Acts, and therefore there is no business which we have to transact. In a company such as ours good management is always a principal factor of success, and in this connection your Directors feel that they were fortunate in securing the services as Manager of a gentleman who has had ten years' planting and estate management experience in the island of Jamaica. He sailed on the 17th December last, and arrived on the property early in January, when he at once proceeded to take the necessary steps to get into possession of the estates on behalf of the Company. The formalities in connection with the transfer usually take some little time to arrange, but your Manager evidently hastened matters considerably, because on the 31st January he cabled to us that he had already taken possession of the 'Whitehall' estate on behalf of the Company, and on the 30th of last month we received from him the following cable:—

"Both properties already in our possession. Planting will be taken in hand immediately. Have begun work. Writing fully in the matter of such crops; prospects are very favourable coconuts."

"Your Directors regard this cablegram as eminently satisfactory, and we have no hesitation in repeating our belief that these properties will eventually be of large production and equal to, if not better than, any property in the West Indies. I would mention here that a portion of your estate on the Port Antonio side could be sold to-day as building sites for probably more than we paid for the whole of the property, and that land in the neighbourhood of Port Antonio is increasing greatly in value."

"There is one other matter I should just like to mention to you, one which I think will probably prove to be of very great value to the Company, and that is an important concession of 25,000 acres of land and valuable trading rights on the Central American coast, where the finest and largest nut in the world are produced. The Company, in course of formation to work this concession and trading rights, will have a capital of £200,000, and by our joining the enterprise in its initial stage, which your Directors have done at a small risk, they have managed to secure an interest in the business which will give to the shareholders of the Jamaica Copra and Estates Co., Ltd., a large portion of the profits. If the business is anything like what we have been led to believe, and as far as we can see the statements made to us are genuine and made by responsible parties, the profits to be derived by your Company therefrom should pay a considerable dividend upon our issued capital. This, you must understand, is in addition to the income to be derived from the estates in Jamaica."

"One of your Directors, Mr. H. H. Dawes, has organised a small party consisting of himself, Captain Henshaw, of the Royal Mail S.P. Co., who has offered to remain on the property; and a barrister, Mr. Marten; and he and his colleagues sailed for Central America on the 31st ult. I cannot at this juncture go more fully into the matter, but I thought it would interest you to have some preliminary news of this extension of our business, it being one which your Directors regard as of very great importance to the future of the Company, and if our information is correct, one which will bring a very large additional revenue."

"There is one more matter I should like to refer to, and that is as to the contract for an additional supply of 50,000,000 coconuts spread over five years. This matter has had the careful and anxious consideration of the Board, and in view of the fact that a Bank credit of £5,000 had to be opened with the contractor, and that a separate organisation had to be started on the island where the nuts were coming from, which would render it necessary to have one or two different establishments together with copra factories, etc., it was decided after, as I have said, most careful consideration, that it would be preferable to devote that £5,000 to another channel if such channel could be found for a similar purpose—namely, the supply of additional nuts. Therefore, arrangements were made with the contractor whereby the Company had the option to be released from this contract, thus enabling us to place that money into what your directors consider a better proposition, and of a permanent nature. This is the new business we have taken an interest in to which I referred in my previous remarks. We feel sure that by placing the £5,000 in the venture referred to, better and more lasting results will be gained."

HOW TO NEUTRALISE DANGEROUS STOMACH ACIDS.

Few people besides physicians realise the importance of keeping the food contents of the stomach free from acid fermentation. Healthy normal digestion cannot take place while the delicate lining of the stomach is being inflamed and distended by acid and wind—the results of fermenting food in the stomach. To secure perfect digestion, fermentation must be stopped or prevented, and the acid neutralised. For this purpose physicians usually recommend getting a little bisurated magnesia from the chemist and taking half a teaspoonful in a little hot or cold water immediately after eating. They recommend bisurated magnesia because it is pleasant to take, has no disagreeable after effects, and instantly stops fermentation, neutralises the acid and makes the sour acid food bland, sweet and easily digested.

The regular use of bisurated magnesia—be sure you get the *bisurated*, as other kinds of magnesia are of little value—is an absolute guarantee of healthy, normal digestion, for it overcomes and prevents that acid condition which alone is the cause of trouble.

SAFEGUARD YOUR FUTURE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.—Men and Women wanted to take up a course of Postal Training for excellent positions under Poor Law as Relieving Officers, Registrars, Stewards, Officers, Storekeepers, M. Irons, Assistant Matrons, Paid Visitors; no exam.; age 18-45. Excellent prospects; good salaries; pens! as. Special preparation for all posts. "A Straightforward Course in"—John Bull. Write, Secretary, Poor Law Postal Training College, 213, Thanet House, Strand. "College Magazine" free

FREE! THE MOST POPULAR BOOK OF HAIR FASHIONS EVER ISSUED.

Royal Hair Specialist's Remarkable Gift of 24 Hair-Dressings and Fashionable Coiffures FREE to Readers of "John Bull."

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF MR. EDWARDS' TWO-COLOUR GUIDE SHOWING EVERY LADY HOW TO APPEAR "HEAD PERFECT" ALWAYS.

Hair Fashions for Men and Complete Harlene Hair Drill Outfits for Growing Beautiful Hair Also included in Magnificent FREE Offer.

Seldom in the history of the fashionable world has so great an influence been brought to bear upon this question of beautiful coiffures and luxuriant hair as there has been lately.

A wonderful Gift-Manual of elegant and recherché hair-dressings produced by the Royal Hair Specialist, and explaining clearly how they may be "made up" by any lady at her own dressing-table so as to give her appearance that charm and attraction that should rightly belong to it—no matter what her type of face or feature, was offered without a penny of cost, and for the benefit of any who have not yet received their copy, together with the free hair-growing and hair-beautifying "Harlene" outfit, Mr. Edwards is repeating the offer to-day.

GAIN YOUTHFUL BEAUTY AND GLORIOUS HAIR IN THE USUAL MORNING TOILET.

Spend a few delightful moments in the morning toilet practising the "Harlene Hair-Drill" method of growing hair. Mr. Edwards is ready to send you a splendid hair-growing gift so that no matter how weak or impoverished your hair may be now, it will grow again in abundance.

In addition, you may have a Chart, beautifully printed in two colours, which will give you the added enjoyment of looking through examples of Parisian and Bond Street coiffures for the opera, the drawing-room and for "everyday," and deciding which of them will best suit your own individual type of features.

It is quite unnecessary for anyone to look old, for hair-rejuvenation such as you may now commence without expense, and the adoption of the right style of hair-dressing, will take any number of years from the appearance. It is all a question of knowing which style best suits YOU personally, and this advice is carefully planned out in the beautiful Hair-dressing Guide.

TO SECURE A SENSATIONAL YOUTH-AND-BEAUTY GIFT—SIMPLY SEND THE FORM BELOW.

The magnificent Hair-dressing Chart and "Hair-drill" Outfit are obtainable simply by using the coupon printed below. Whether your hair is dull, lifeless, just beginning to thin, or whether you are becoming wholly bald, this gift will show you there is a means of revitalising hair life, and if you persevere your hair must regain its youthful, bright, "snappy," rich-coloured, abundant appearance.

"HARLENE HAIR-DRILL" AFFORDS A DEFINITE CURE FOR—

Scurf.	Dandruff.	Thinning Hair.
Baldness.	Irritation.	Dullness.
Greasiness.		

The Free Outfit is sufficient to prove to every individual reader that the claims made for "Harlene," remarkable though they may seem, are really justified by the speedy revitalisation of your hair.

There is scarcely any hair trouble you can think of that does not yield to the magic touch of "Harlene," no matter how long it

has been in existence. If the hair comes out in handfuls, "Harlene" will rebuild it from the roots upwards; if the hair splits at the ends, gets clogged with scurf or dandruff, is too greasy or too dry, "Harlene" starts at once to strengthen, cleanse and give new health to hair and scalp alike.

"Harlene" is refreshing and cooling, a brilliant success as a hair tonic and dressing, so that even if your hair is already perfect you will find it of infinite use in preventing any possible falling or decaying.

You should lose no time in sending for your free outfit in order to test the splendid properties of this famous hair grower.

FILL IN AND POST THE COUPON BELOW FOR YOUR FREE GIFT.

Send the special coupon below, with 3d. in stamps to cover postage, to Edwards' "Harlene" Co., 104, High Holborn, London, W.C., and by return you will receive the complete four-fold gift, which, as explained, consists of the following unique toilet essentials:—

(1) A splendidly illustrated Hair-Dressing Chart of 24 Lessons, printed in two colours.

(2) A bottle of the famous hair-grower "Harlene."

(3) A packet of "Cremex" Shampoo Powder, which effectively dissolves scurf, allays scalp irritation and prepares the head for "Hair-drill."

(4) Full directions how to grow luxuriant hair by 2 minutes' "Harlene Hair-drill" daily.

This tremendous gift is of the utmost value to all prematurely aged men and women.

"Harlene" is sold in 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. bottles, and "Cremex" in 1s. boxes of 7 shampoos (single 2d. each), by all Chemists and Stores, or direct and post free on remittance.

Foreign orders postage extra. Cheques and P.O.'s should be crossed.



The plainest face is rendered charming if the hair is abundant and tastefully dressed, just as the prettiest of faces becomes wholly unattractive if surmounted by a crown of scanty or indifferently dressed hair. It should not be forgotten, too, that hair poverty makes you look old before you really are. Mr. Edwards to-day offers a magnificent gift of a complete outfit for growing abundant hair and a guide for dressing it, secured free by using the coupon below.

COLOSSAL GIFT COUPON.

EDWARDS' "HARLENE" COMPANY,

104, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Will send to all signing this coupon (1) A complete "Hair-Drill" Outfit and (2) a Home Hair-dressing Chart in Two Colours.

Enclose 3d. stamps only for postage anywhere in the world. (Foreign stamps accepted.)

Name

Address

JOHN BULL, 7-3-14.

MORE CHALLENGES IN THE COMMONS.

SPORTING RECORDS TO BE MADE AND BROKEN.

Mr. Handel Booth, the volatile Member for Pontefract, has issued a series of sporting challenges on behalf of himself and his constituents, such challenges being addressed to all other Members and their constituents.

It was only natural that such a strenuous example should be largely copied by other Members, and even by noble lords of the Upper House, and we are in the position of being able to announce a few of the more striking challenges already issued:—

A certain Member, well known in the City, and not an entire stranger to Carey Street, offers to back himself against all comers in the delicate art of "flying-a-kite."

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is open to back himself as an example of Scottish canniness and caution, and will also lay odds against any outsider obtaining official reward and preference before he does. Other sports at which he is proficient, and at which he is open to a contest, are telling-the-tale, pulling-the-leg, and shirking-the-vote.

On the other hand, a gentleman who prefers to announce himself as a Genuine Labour Member, desires to shine as an exponent of the sports that are native to him, and in which he still takes active interest, and so invites all who feel matey to meet him and his pals at coddem, shove-ha'penny, and cribbage. Stakes will be covered to any amount up to sixpence.

A peer of the realm defies any Parliamentarian, be he peer or commoner, to equal his record as co-respondent.

Another noble lord thinks he holds the record for plundering the Israelite, and will produce figures to show the extent of his borrowings against the figures of any other peer, either for a money stake or merely for honour.

A hopeful young Member of the Lower House backs himself against any other Member of equal age in the old-fashioned sport of touching-father, otherwise known as doing-the-dad-down.

Mr. Lloyd George does not claim to have kept entire count of the nice things that have been said about him, but he has collected enough pretty names applied to himself to justify him in challenging all the House.

Mr. William O'Brien claims to be the champion resigner.

Mr. Winston Churchill's challenge is to fly anybody, for fun or a fiver, and is specially addressed to Mr. Joynson Hicks and Major Archer Shee.

"Tay Pay" claims to have kissed the blarney stone against the world.

A certain Whip thinks he holds the record for success in the intricate and delicate sport of dealing in honours. He prefers to remain anonymous for the present, but will willingly reveal his name to any other Whip who may take up his challenge.

A BYRONIC FRAGMENT.

(The German Ambassador, speaking to the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, pointed out that the worsted manufacturers of Bradford and district supplied much of the material used for nether garments in Germany, adding: "What a plight we should be in if trouble arose between us and we were then deprived of the material for this very necessary garment and had to do without the latter!")

There was a sound of revelry by night,

The German capital was gathered then,

And, notwithstanding each her partner's plight,

Fair women tangoed with untrousered men.

A thousand eyes glanced merrily, and when

Some hapless dancer caught his foot and fell,

The consequences I'm afraid my pen

Too modest is by far for me to tell:

The only words I'd better venture are: "Well, well!"

"Come, let's career it!" shouted those who'd wined

And those whose dress was quaintly incomplete;

"On with the dance! Our legs are unconfined!"

No rest till dawn when youth and pleasure meet!

It's warmer here by far than in the street,

So let's be blithe and merry while we may.

To-morrow we may smash the British fleet

And then not only bring to pass "The Day,"

But once again in trousers our chilled legs array!"

£555

IN CASH PRIZES

First Prize £200

1,244 PRIZES IN ALL.

HOMOCEA

WORD-MAKING COMPETITION

LIST OF CASH PRIZES.

1st Prize - £200

2nd " - £50

3rd " - £25

16 Prizes of £5

25 " " £1

200 " " 5/-

1,000 " " 2/6

CLOSING DAY
LAST DAY OF
MARCH.

EVERYONE ELIGIBLE.

No Entrance Fee.

You are probably already familiar with word-making, and will relish this opportunity to secure £200 in cash. This Competition is built upon principles which you will know exactly how to follow, and exactly what to do.

WHAT YOUR WORD-LISTS

SHOULD CONTAIN.

Make as many words as you can from the 10 letters contained in the word "HOMOCEA."

"TRY HOMOCEA."

The words you choose must be in the dictionary, and may contain each letter only once, with the exception of "o," which may be used twice in a word if desired.

Words spelled the same but having more than one meaning only count as one, and names of persons and places not allowed.

HEAD EACH SHEET

with your name, address, and on the top right hand corner of the first sheet put prominently the number of words you submit as your attempt. Cut out this announcement, fill up the coupon, and start off writing your list at once.

The sooner you commence the better your chance of winning a prize. And remember there are over a thousand prizes, so that the chances are abundant.

HOW TO ENTER.—Secure from your chemist one of the following "Homocea" preparations. Affix the coupon and Entry Coupon the wrapper as indicated below.

HOMOCEA

ointment.

The world-famous remedy for cuts, wounds, burns, scalds. Price 1s. 11d. per Tin.

SEND THE OUTSIDE

EMBUROCATION.

Exceedingly efficacious for backache, bruises, stiffness, and tired muscles. Price 1s. 11d. per Tube.

SEND THE OUTSIDE

LINIMENT.

Absolutely painless severe rheumatism, cramp, limbic sprain, and strains. Price 1s. 11d. per Bottle.

SEND THE OUTSIDE

MEDICATED SOAP.

For delicate skins, roughness, rashes, and all skin irritations.

Price 1s. per Box of 3 Tablets.

SEND THE THREE

WRAPPERS.

If unobtainable at your chemist's any preparation will be sent post free on application to HOMOCEA Ltd., Scrubbs Lane, Wileton, London.

HOMOLOIDS.

Instant relief in the most severe cases of Hives.

Price 1s. 11d. per Box.

SEND THE THREE

WRAPPERS.

RULES (Read these carefully before entering.)

- (1) Everyone is eligible, except if connected with the HOMOCEA Company or the management of this competition.
- (2) The 1st Prize of £200 will be awarded to the sender of the longest list of eligible words. If more than one sends in the same number of words for the 1st Prize the first received will secure the £200, as NO PRIZE WILL BE DIVIDED.
- (3) Priority will always be given to the first attempt received in case of "ties" for the other prizes.
- (4) All attempts must be posted not later than last post on March 31st, 1914.
- (5) No attempt will be considered unless accompanied by (1) the outside wrapper from one of the "Homocea" preparations as explained above, and (2) the newspaper entry coupon below, or entry coupon from your chemist.
- (6) Chief prize-winners' names and addresses will be published in the "Daily Sketch" on April 28th, 1914. Complete list of prize-winners can be seen at your chemist's on or after April 15th, 1914. Cheques will be posted to all winners in time for the Easter Holidays.
- (7) No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition, and the decision of the Judges acting for the Directors of HOMOCEA, Ltd., will be final.
- (8) All attempts to be sent to HOMOCEA Ltd., 8, Scrubbs Lane, Wileton, London N.W., marked "Competition" on envelope.
- (9) Any competitor using the same word more than once renders himself liable to disqualification.

HOMOCEA (CASH PRIZES) COMPETITION.

ENTRY COUPON.

Attached is my attempt for the above competition. I enclose the complete wrapper from one of your preparations and agree to abide by the rules, which I have carefully read, and to accept the Judge's decision.

NAME

ADDRESS

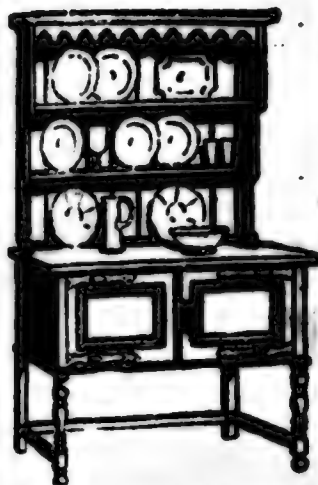
CHEMIST'S NAME (if possible)

ADDRESS

Note to Reader.—Please purchase of your own chemist if possible. If you win either of the first three prizes he will be awarded a cheque because he supplied you.

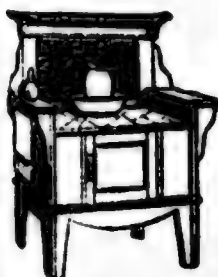
Free Life and Fire Insurance.

The "Midland" charge nothing for credit—no deposit, no interest. Customers can also obtain free insurance policies whereby all furniture purchased on Ideal Terms becomes the absolute property of the wife, in the event of the death of the purchaser. All Furniture thus purchased is also insured against fire, free.



Small constructed Oak Dresser of elegant design, with roomy cupboard at the lower part, and oxidized brass fittings. Finished in any shade desired. £3 3s. 6d.

Railway Fares Paid.
Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £25 and over. Country orders paid and delivered free.



Well-made Bedroom Suite in Oak, elegantly designed. Complete with 12 ornate chairs. A typical example of "Midland" value. £6 6s. 6d.



This Little Chap

buys more at the "Midland."

When you go to the "Midland" for your furniture, you are not buying from an ordinary retail firm. The "Midland" are actual manufacturers. That cuts out the usual intermediate profits. Further, the huge scale of the "Midland" business and their consequent command of markets enable them to give you extra value for every sovereign.

There isn't a firm in London that can touch the "Midland" for value.

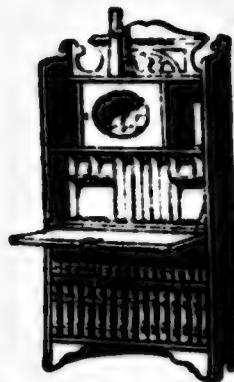
You can easily test the accuracy of what I say. Come to the "Midland." There is £100,000 worth of superb furniture on view. Pick out any article you like. Look at the plainly-marked price. Then go and find out what you would be charged elsewhere for furniture of anything like the same quality. You'll soon discover that money does buy more at the "Midland."

Ideal Terms.		Town or Country.	
Worth.	Per 31th.	Worth.	Per 31th.
£10..20	6 0	£50.. 1	5 0
£20.. 0	11 0	£100.. 2	5 0
£30.. 0	17 0	£200.. 4	10 0
£40.. 1	5 0	£500.. 11	5 0

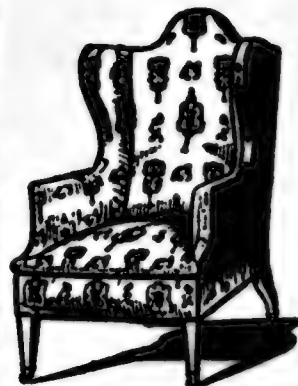
Larger amounts pro rata.

Write for the New Book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume—the finest and most comprehensive Guide to Furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in our Furniture Salons. Write for it to-day.



Quaint Bureau of famed oak, very soundly constructed and carefully finished. The design is a model of convenience and excellent value at £3 3s. 6d.



A luxurious upholstered Wing-chair, covered with art tapestry to customer's choice. £1 5s. 6d.

No Branch Establishments.

Midland

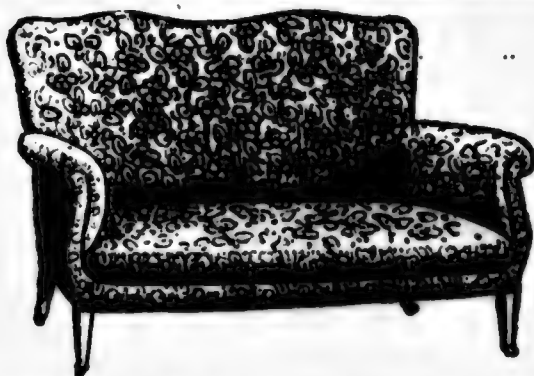
Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Contractors to H.M. Crown Agents for the Colonies,
15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C.

Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station,
1 minute from British Museum Tube Station.

Hours—9 till 8. Saturdays—9 till 1.

Managing Director, GEORGE MICHAEL (who has been associated with the business for 45 years).



Large Design Settee, exceedingly well sprung and upholstered. Covered in cretonne or art tapestry to customer's choice. £3 15s. 6d.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—

Is "Honours" easy, the rule in English politics?
 Won't Master. get a "re-seat" in full for his loss?
 Won't the King see the suffragette deputation—further?
 Shouldn't General Villa have an "n" added to his name?
 Doesn't the aerial "wing" of the Army need strengthening?
 Are you looking for competitions to enter? See pages 33 and 38.

Is it true that there is no difference between the Pankhurst sisters?

How much are the Bishops giving towards the restoration of St. Paul's?

Do the West Sussex police appreciate the Chief Constable's "dry" humour?

Doesn't Germany's speeding up in naval building mean getting ahead of someone?

Baseball experts are said to receive salaries of £200 a month. They make the game pay.

Anyone writing to say that Marie Lloyd will now "Seattle down" will be prosecuted.

A bachelor of eighty-one, named Fielding, has just got married. We hope he made a good catch.

An actress has arranged to sell three feet of her hair to a dealer for £1,000. A valuable crop.

"Mr. Gulland Climbs Down," reads a news heading. Apparently, he was "up a tree."

It costs the French President £40 an hour to travel by rail. Solo whist—or the three-card trick?

A new book is announced by "A Whisper." Does the author expect to make a noise in the world?

Mr. Garvice claims to be the only novelist gardener. But there are others who can dig up plots.

The newly-married husband may be known by the fact that he is willing to go shopping with his wife.

"Woman under death sentence asks to marry," we read. Naturally, she would be absolutely reckless.

The German Crown Prince has been ill with mumps. But he had had swellings near the head for some time.

"The new pose for fashionable women is questionable," says a contemporary. But it seems to answer.

How to earn three pounds a week: Sign your halfpenny newspaper and get half-killed by a motor-bus.

The wives of the deported African labour leaders are to be sent after the husbands. This is the last straw.

"The blouse is coming in again," says a fashion note. So glad; we were afraid that everything was going out.

The *Times* notes that many people, even divines, have wished to die in an inn. But we should prefer to live in one.

The girl essayist who described the Oval as "where the Lords play," apparently thought it was at Westminster.

Two Brooklyn burglars were proved to have attended church morning and evening every Sunday. They were fond of preying.

The fact that the hobble skirt dates back to 2,000 B.C. proves that there is nothing new under the sun, nor over the daughter.

A critic says the greatest writers are never sure of themselves. The greatest writer denies this, and says he is quite Shaw.

Professor Giffard says we are not descended from apes, but from dwarfs and pixies. Little Tich is really one of our remote forefathers.

A Chicago train will take you twenty-eight miles for twopence-halfpenny. New Yorkers call this cheap—if it is twenty-eight miles out of Chicago.

A speaker at the Master Printers' Federation said he could not find an adjective strong enough to describe the sort of fools printers are. Most editors have the same difficulty.

Another Mammoth "Bullets" Prize Offer. See page 38.

Printer's Pie.

(THE WORK OF THE "DEVIL.")

"BRIGHTON HERALD" report:—

"The Rev. Joseph Dixon read Whittaker's beautiful hymn, commencing 'IMMORAL LOVE, for Ever Full.'"

"MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS" report:—

"All the defendants were fined 40s. and costs for ASSISTING THE POLICE."

"MANITOBA FREE PRESS":—

"When it is ONE HUNDRED FEET IN THE EARTH, it is impossible for those ON THE EARTH to hear the passage of the aerial craft."

"WHAT'S ON":—

"The evening will see the hundredth performance in the Tag Circus at Olympia, the brilliant entertainment which has been witnessed by nearly HALF A MILLION PEOPLE. . . . THE SIXTY-THIRTH visitor to Carl Hagenbeck's Wonder Zoo has ALREADY been registered."

"MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE" report:—

"When it was in its normal position the CHANDELIER was about 5 FT. 2 IN. FROM THE LEVEL OF THE FLOOR, and just above the foot of the parents' bed. The MATTRESS of that bed was about 10 FT. FROM THE FLOOR."

"PEMBROKE COUNTY GUARDIAN" advertisement:—

"For sale, a few good SECOND-HAND HORSES cheap.—Williams, 86, Ruther Lane, Haverfordwest."

"BIRMINGHAM DAILY MAIL" advertisement:—

"Singer handsome Sewing Machine, SOLID GOLD. Oak. Cost £11 7s. 6d. Accept £4 10s. Wedding present." 281, Wheeler Street, Lozells."

"LLOYD'S WEEKLY NEWS":—

"Employment of EITHER WIFE by her husband would not come under the Act, but employment by anyone else would."

"DAILY MAIL":—

"England will in the near future, be COMPELLED to accept baseball, and she will do SO OF HER OWN FREE WILL."

"DAILY MIRROR":—

"Members of the Chicago Bachelor Girls' Club . . . say they must receive AFFIRMATIVE answers to this list of questions before they will marry:— . . . Have you bad habits, such as drinking or smoking to excess?"

"READING OBSERVER":—

"Washing.—A Lady wishes to recommend WOMAN TOGETHER DRIED AND MANGLED."

NATIONAL UNIONIST ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL UNIONIST ORGANISATIONS announcement:—

"For more than 20 CENTURIES the Church of England and Wales has been united."

"BELFAST EVENING TELEGRAPH" advertisement:—

"LIVE STOCK.—Married couple or others could have furnished room at 34, Unity Street."

"SOUTH WALES DAILY POST" report:—

"Bert Sullivan, OF NO FIXED ABODE, and Wm. Jones, OF THE SAME PLACE, were charged with street obstruction."

"COURIER" (Dundee):—

"William of Wied, first ruling Prince of Albania . . . drove to Buckingham Palace to lunch with KING EDWARD."

"GLASGOW EVENING CITIZEN" advertisement:—

"For sale, Argyle motor-car, 4-seater, IN GOOD ORDER. ENGINE BROKEN."

Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published in this column. Should more than one competitor call attention to the same blunder, the amount will be forwarded to the sender of the first letter opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings sufficient must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and date of issue. Envelopes to be marked "Printer's Pie" in the left-hand top corner.

ANOTHER SINGLE-WEEK FOOTBALL CONTEST.

£1,500

FOR AN ALL-CORRECT COUPON

£
500
IF ONE
ERROR
ONLY

£
150
FOR NEXT
BEST
FORECAST

£
50
FOR
MAUVE
COUPON

We again offer the huge sum of £1,500 for an all-correct Football Coupon—in a SINGLE WEEK contest. In addition, contingent prizes of £500 and £150 are offered, together with a special extra £50 prize for the best Mauve Coupon—The biggest Football prizes offered by any paper. The matches selected are to be played on Saturday, March 14th. The contest closes Friday, March 13th, so don't delay your entries. Send now. There are no fees to pay. Scottish readers may now enter.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the League games to be played on Saturday, March 14th, given on the entrance form on page 2 of our cover. Before making your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking your forecasts as explained on the coupon.

£1,500 FOR AN ALL-CORRECT COUPON.

The huge sum of £1,500 will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded. Thus, ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

Should it happen that no Entrance Form be received giving the whole of the correct results, £500 will be paid to the competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the cash prize of £150 to the sender of the most correct forecasts, whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of £50 for the most correct forecast.

The RULES and COUPON

will be found

on

PAGE 2 of COVER.

sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £1,500, £500, or £150, but also an extra £50.

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

Our Football Competition department is now under the personal supervision of "Mauve," the well-known football writer, late of the "Morning Leader" and "Daily Chronicle."

£50 "MAUVE" COUPON PRIZE.

We offer a special £50 prize for the best forecast on a "Mauve" Coupon taken from "Mary Bull." Thus by using a "Mauve" Coupon competitors have the opportunity of winning not only the £1,500, or the £500 or £150, but also an additional £50. Being a single-week contest, there is one Mauve Coupon only—in this week's "Mary Bull," on sale Friday, March 6th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY ENTER.

We are now able to accept entries from readers resident in Scotland, so specially invite our Scottish readers to participate in this contest.

Address: JOHN BULL, 2, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Mark envelope, "Football Contest No. 14." Closing date, Friday, March 13th.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to pages 38 and 39, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. Another mammoth prize offer is made this week. The enormous sum of £1,000 will be paid for the best "Bullet" received. In addition a second prize of £100, and over 5,000 consolation and other prizes value nearly £2,250 are to be won.

"JOHN BULL" £50,000 DERBY SWEEP. Will readers please bear in mind that we cannot either supply or reply to applications for books of tickets for this sweepstake; nor can we act as agents for receiving and forwarding money for tickets. All communications must be addressed direct to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"To whom this may concern do not take any notice of adverts. inserted in papers as it is only a trap and Bunkum if they do their duty ask them to find out who stole my Box between Paddington and Nine Elms Station and has been the cause of all the Bother do not worry about the papers and letters they have got the money is safe in your Name it is yours to accept or reject it was your father's before do not part with any money whatever know you now if this should catch the eye of — shall be delighted to see you at Okhampton later on when full explanations can be given and received. Signed this 20th day of February, 1914, — R K L I H D N S C D. Ask them to put that in their pipe and smoke it."

"I could come to see you last week but cannot help it, because was overtime from my work at 3 o'clock. Please let me know what time your closed on week-day and Saturday? I thought I have won Football Competition Prize. Can you lend me about £5 to £10 because my work is very slack time? My wage is small."

OUR CRANKS' CORNER.

The prosperous-looking Colonial walked into the office of the struggling merchant. "Mister," he exclaimed, "you gave me a start in life. Twenty years ago to-day you handed me a shilling and sent me out for stamps, and I never returned. That shilling laid the foundation of an immense fortune, for I am now worth a million pounds. Here is your shilling, and now I want the week's wages you owe me." Which shows that if you cast your bread upon the waters it will return in the form of "slops."

A "BULLETS" WINNER'S THANKS.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Percy L. Keeble, the winner of our 71st Bullet Competition:—

It is with extreme pleasure that I acknowledge receipt of cheque value £500, being the first prize awarded to me.

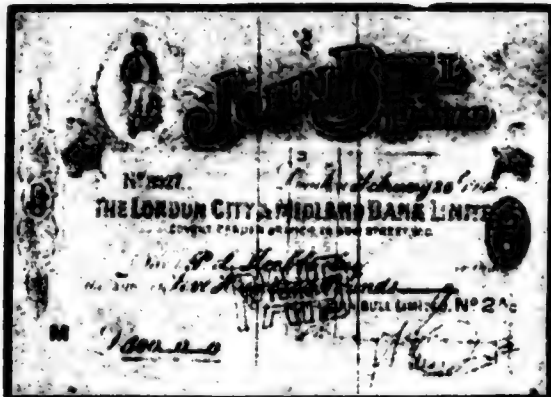
I am 24 years of age, single, and have been employed at the Woolwich Equitable Building Society for over nine years.

Your health was drunk right heartily at Christmas last, when I was fortunate enough to win one of your Christmas turkeys, and I might add that I have been the recipient of several other awards at previous dates.

It is wonderful how news spreads, for the morning of yesterday had hardly begun before my hand was nearly shaken off by numerous friends.

Well, here's to good old JOHN BULL. May its present prosperity and popularity never cease.

The cheque for the £500 prize, reproduced below, will be shown at the premises of Mr. W. M. Iced, 28, High



Street, Plumstead, from Wednesday, March 4th, till Saturday, March 7th, and from then until March 11th at those of Mr. G. Ham, 83, Plumstead Road, Woolwich.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

AUTHORS and ARTISTS submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.

Legal Inquiries must be addressed to the Legal Editor, 98, Long Acre, W.C., and must be accompanied by a Postal Order for a Shilling.

GENERAL.

"LIPTONS."—If our correspondent, "Journal," will send his name and address, he may hear of something to his advantage.

H. G. (Liverpool) and OTHERS.—We shall shortly deal further with the connection between "Free Education" and Territorial Service.

S. R. (Ashington North) and OTHERS.—We are afraid you stand no chance whatever of seeing either the goods or your money, the leading spirit of the Sovereign Supply Stores, Morris Berlyn Jacobs, having just been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. You should have heeded our warning.

L. L. (Grantown-on-S.).—"Would you inform me if this idea for keeping on hat pin guards is worth anything? I think if the inside of the guards were made of fine magnetised steel they would stay on all right." The idea is worth nothing to us, as we do not wear hat pins. As the steel is to be magnetised, however, it might prove a draw for women.

J. W. T. (Blackpool).—We have nothing more to say about Father Moss's Talbot Square Bazaar. It is obvious that such misleading tickets should not have been issued.

"Jess" is making anxious inquiries with reference to the whereabouts of her husband "Jack," and would be glad to hear from him to save further inquiries and trouble.

R. E. (Hemel Hempstead).—It is not our idea of public propriety that a man should use his position as chairman of a local authority to obtain advantages for his daughter in the paid service of the authority, but the fact in this instance is not serious.

"A PANEL DOCTOR" (Maltby).—Trade unionism in the medical profession is making it as commercial as butchering. What you say merely concerns the "business" aspect of doctoring, and does not at all persuade us to change our opinion that the conduct of the three Waltham Cross doctors was characterised by inhumanity.

E. L. (H'West).—It would not be right for us on the facts to form the conclusion that the majority of the Rouse Magistrates convicted you for riding without a light because they were Tories and you are Liberal.

H. M. (Belfast).—Great as is our interest in Irish questions, we must be frank and tell you that your County Court struggle against the local Co-operative Society to recover the sum of one shilling, "money had and received," is not one of them.

H. N. (Govan).—The prices of the best violins of Stradivari and Guarneri range from £200 to £500, but one was sold at Stuttgart for £2,500. Kubelik's Strad. is said to be worth £1,000. If you have a violin with the inscription inside as that you state, you are in luck—if it is genuine. Read Mr. Haweis' "Old Violins," which you will probably be able to borrow at your local public library.

G. H. G. (Perth).—Hello, hello! So you, too, have come into possession of a violin inscribed within "Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis, Faciebat Anno 1735." Is it possible some base Englisher your way is imposing on the Scots? Show your Strad. to a policeman.

"DEVON" (Broadclyst).—Thanks for informing us that in the course of a sermon on the prophet Malachi, in Broadclyst Church, the Rev. C. P. Whitaker, the Vicar, remarked how deplorable it was to find the recent efforts of the London clergy to uplift the music-hall stage scoffed at by low class papers like JOHN BULL. What a compliment to become a sermon for high-class vicars like the Rev. C. P. Whitaker! If he continues to read us carefully, he may presently find occasion to quote us at a Mothers' Meeting or a Love Feast.

W. C. (Worcester).—As requested, we permit you to tender to us the following verse:—"A Born Hero—A nobler man ne'er did live, Than General Baden Powell, Who in the town of Mafeking, Scarce did use a towel. Of horses he ate plenty, There's not the slightest doubt, When the Boers attempted rallies, He scattered them about. When all was o'er said he 'Old England I'll be there, To wed the woman that I love, And get a son and heir.'" Your statement that the General is a born hero is hereby accepted, but what we are in doubt about is whether his son is a born heir-o.

"PATIENT" (Benenden) sends us a bitter complaint about the sanatorium there. We have similar allegations from many other districts.

N. C. (Witham) says that her friends tell her she has a splendid figure—and is well developed. She wishes to become an artists' model, provided she would be allowed to undress in private. Our correspondent has evidently written to the wrong paper. She should have addressed the Editor of the *Christian Herald*.

B. M. (South Hackney).—It is deplorable that none of the doctors you mention came to the assistance of your wife, but in referring you to your panel doctor they were within their legal right. The fact that he lives a mile away does not alter the case. Why not arrange for a nearer one?

J. G. B. (Lockerbie) wrote to the Salvation Army with reference to our indictment a few days ago and received the reply:—"The man certainly died, but proper medical attention was given to him, and as his heart was affected he would have died in any case, whether he was here or not." No doubt the man *would* have died some time or other; the allegation is that his death was accelerated by his ill-treatment.

"2ND DESTROYER FLOTILLA."—Many men of this Flotilla write complaining that Miss Weston is still using the man of the Navy (much against their wish) to draw subscriptions for what she terms "Sailors' Homes." We have frequently commented upon the matter, but the old lady is apparently very thick-skinned.

G. W. (Winchester) tells us that he was passing along a country road a few days ago when he saw a tramp sitting on the sidewalk pulling the loose sole off his boot. As it did not come away easily he was using some strong language. A parson came by at the time, and, being shocked at the language, asked the man where he expected his soul to go. The impudent answer was: "As soon as I get it loose it will go over this hedge." Excusable, in the circumstances—if true!

"INVENTOR" (Wallasey) sends us particulars of requirements of L.G.O.C. for life guards. He asks, if we were inventors would we entrust a patent to them, under the conditions? No.

"SOLDIER" (2nd Batt. Gordon Highlanders) complains about the rate of exchange in English currency. He says that a soldier is robbed right and left and has no redress whatever.

A CHINGFORD WIDOW WITH SIX CHILDREN pleads for her son, who is 16 years of age, and deaf and dumb. He has just returned to her from school after being away a number of years. She would be glad if any reader would take him to learn a trade.

"SEAMAN" (H.M.S. *London*) wants us to tell Mr. Churchill that his ship is not fit for a pig to live on. He is told.

"A GERMAN" (Berlin) writes to tell us that he is glad he is back in his own country. So are we. We wish he had taken some of his pals also.

J. W. (Lincoln) sends us a press cutting with reference to a National Service League meeting presided over by a Mr. North Jubb; and asks if we can make any sense of the Chairman's remarks. We cannot.

L. S. C. (Westminster).—Enough for the present about the S.A. shelters in relation to the sweating of cooks and stokers.

A. M. (Anerley).—We know nothing of H. J. C. Marshall, "The Colonial House," 2, Brook Street, Kennington Road, S.E., who advertises in the German papers for clerks, and professes to employ 1,200 clerks and workmen. As you live at Anerley, you might see if you can find him.

A. E. D. (Leytonstone, N.E.).—Surely it is not necessary to tell you that the Capt. Rand your lady friend has heard from with an offer of a £s. 6d. "lucky stone" is the same old humbug we have already exposed a hundred times.

"WHIF" (Llanelly).—Hunting men are a particularly clever set as a rule, so we don't see that the one you refer to committed a very serious crime in changing his wet socks for a dry pair, in public. For goodness' sake cultivate a broader mind.

"OLIVE" (Weston-super-Mare).—We are unaware what is the official salary of a High Bailiff of a County Court, but dare say that, like the Lord High Chancellor, Lord Haldane, he is paid about twice as much as he is worth.

Mrs. R. H. (Northampton).—You have been "done" by the "Alhambra Warehouse Co., of Bradford." Your only remedy is to sue them for breach of contract, by which means you might recover your 16s.

By the way, Don't Forget to take home "Mary Bull." On Sale Fridays.

H. W. (Garnant, S. Wales).—H. J. Gasson, of Rye, Sussex, is a rather big pot in his way, but we certainly think he should have refunded the money you sent him for garden netting which you returned because it was no good to you. His silence is neither kind nor polite.

A. T. P. (Paris).—It is impossible to deny that a certain class of English tourists seem to forget their manners (if they ever possessed any) when they travel on the Continent. The party you observed in a *loge* at the Paris Alhambra evidently belonged to that category.

A. C. H. (Wakefield) tells us that the Moorthorpe Headquarters of the Salvation Army recently issued an advertisement reading: "Rabbit Pie Supper. Tickets 6d. each. Prepare to meet thy God!" They evidently knew something about those rabbits.

J. W. (Manchester).—Policemen are legally empowered to enter public houses and test the sobriety of customers, even to the extent of asking them to stand up. But such powers should be exercised with the greatest tact and discretion, of which qualities the Manchester police sergeant you mention appears to be deficient.

A. M. (Berkeley Square, W.).—We don't see why we should accept your statements as to the condition of Australia, when they are contrary to the bulk of reliable first-hand information we are constantly receiving from the Commonwealth. When you get back "down under" keep your eyes open.

T. M. (Derby).—The report of a case tried at Derby Police Court, when P.C. Hopfur declared that the language of the accused was not "fit for the police to hear, let alone human beings," is interesting. Are we to gather therefrom that the police are inhuman beings? Loud cries of assent from militant suffragettes and last night's "drunks"!

H. K. (Walsall).—The "prize awards" of the Holborn Vulcanite Company, 2, Princeton Street, Holborn, London, W.C., are a mere lure for the sale of their goods.

A. S. L. (Hove).—Servant handing tea informs mistress one of the other servants is down with influenza. Mistress: "I think she should be isolated." Servant: "Well, marm, they says she should be kept warm." And you really laughed a great laugh, did you? You *must* be ticklish.

F. M. (Bow).—"With reference to Miss M. C.'s objection to your joke about Isaacs and Cohen, I should think that if you were to take into consideration whom you were likely to offend among your world-wide readers you would never put a joke in the paper except about the moon or the equator." Quite right.

W. S. (Birmingham).—Oh, sir, save our readers. Christian Science as a topic is as dead as mutton.

"FAIRPLAY" (Fulham).—So you think Lord Rothschild's Christmas pheasants to 'busmen are a mistake, do you? For our part, we should never think of looking a gift horse in the mouth.

"ADMIRER" (Brixton).—All the facts of the case would have to be personally known to us before we could express an opinion about a dog who tore the seat out of little Willie's trousers.

W. L. (Sevenoaks) says he "had formed the opinion that JOHN BULL was courteous and attentive to any communications sent to him by his readers, but personal experience has disillusioned" him in this respect. All these heroics about the loss of a leaflet relating to some French journal or other. If W. L. realised the vast bulk of our correspondence he would think himself exceptionally lucky to have received any attention at all.

W. B. C. (Junior United Service Club).—If you could not detect the irony in our recent "Open Letter" to Mr. Lloyd George, we are afraid you must have been allowing your brain to stagnate. But we do not blame you. We know what the atmosphere of some of the London clubs is.

M. O. A. (Barnstaple).—You are a little too hasty. We have refused the advertisements from the Highbury Furnishing Co. for years. As a matter of fact, we rendered the Lady Doctor considerable aid in the case you mention.

A. P. (Burton-on-Trent).—We are obliged for your long account of the incident which formed the subject of some verses in a recent JOHN BULL entitled "Only a Pauper," but our opinion of the Workhouse officials remains unaltered. We had a full, two-column report of the case before us from which to judge. Moreover, the inquiry instituted by the Local Government Board shows that there is more in the case than you appear to imagine.

F. D. (Stoke-on-Trent).—We cannot tell you how to make soft soap. It is a thing we never deal in. Ask the prospective Parliamentary candidate for your division.

G. M. (Bermondsey).—The result of the Barking betting raid case has confirmed the opinion we expressed several years ago of the officer concerned.

JOSEPH MORDECAI, "Portrait Painter," of 27, Abercorn Place St. John's Wood, N.W., desires it to be known that he is not the Joseph Mordecai mentioned in our issue of November 1st, under the heading "Behind the Screens."

W. T. (Wigan).—We quite agree that J.P.s should not be seen drunk in public, if they can possibly avoid it. The recollection of their own lapse must make them feel so awkward when sentencing fellow-sinners to seven days for a similar offence.

J. H. (Birmingham).—We have no idea what General Booth paid for his passage to America by the s.s. *Lusitania*, but if you are correct in saying he had a private suite, he may easily have paid as much as £175 or more. Who said "Hladleigh"?

J. N. D. (Farnham).—We have, as you will have seen, dealt in a recent issue with your interesting experience with "Captain" Walter Rand and his £30 brooch.

"FAIR PLAY" (Cardiff).—You will have noticed that a sub-department of the Home Office has been created to deal with Reformatory and Industrial School matters, but whether it will do anything to improve the unhappy lot of lads placed on Welsh farms remains to be seen.

S. J. H. (Woking).—It is strange that the National Key Insurance Co. did not acknowledge your communication respecting the loss of your keys. Perhaps by this time you have heard from them.

W. W. (Isle of Man).—We find it impossible to work up any excitement over the fact that R. S. Corlett was defeated in the Ramsay election, notwithstanding his weighing 22 stone. In politics it is not always weight that tells.

H. E. M. (Ongar).—We congratulate you, as Secretary, on the fact that your Poor Law School team defeated the Mercers' School in a football match at Sidcup, by 4 goals to 3. Do you happen to know the ages of the players in both teams? It would interest us to compare them.

HETHERINGTON'S, of 163a, Strand, and who describe themselves as "The Premier Employment Agency," wish to be dissociated from Hetherington's, the Emigration Agents, of 161a, Strand, to whose methods of business we have drawn attention. So be it.

D. G. W. (Forest Gate, E.).—If you could realise the enormous bulk of our correspondence you would not expect an answer to your letter to appear within a fortnight. Only in very rare instances do we reply by post, so our correspondents must cultivate the virtue of patience.

"SARTOR" (Upper Baker Street), *apropos* of the recent episcopal interference in certain music-hall entertainments, pertinently points out that the Bishops themselves show their legs quite as much as the modern lady. Yes; and, unfortunately, they are not nearly so pretty to look at. We must start a crusade against the immodesty of episcopal attire.

"DISAPPOINTED" (Leamington).—Neither the Bible nor a map of England can properly be called a dictionary, so if your wife made use of these in the word-making competition we are not at all astonished that she received no prize, although her list of words was longer than the winner's.

G. F. (Grantham) sends us an advertisement cut from the *Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury*, which reads as follows: "For sale, a few tons of Swedes, and about 10 tons of Mangel Wurzel, guaranteed not pecked by pheasants.—H. Johnson, Alford." Mr. Johnson has a pretty wit, and we believe we can guess his politics.

A. B. (Teignmouth).—*Siren and Shipping* can scream as loudly as it likes. We should not have given the White Star Dominion Line a "Biscuit" had they not deserved it.

J. D. (Farnham).—The gentleman who wrote to the *Farnham Herald*, over the initials H. E., objecting on moral grounds to the bedroom scene in the "Three Musketeers" film, should get himself sent to the nearest sanitary laundry to have his mind washed. He is evidently one of the "pure" to whom all things are impure.

G. G. A. (Portsmouth).—You will be very ill-advised if you have anything to do with the Waterman Advertising Co., of Theobald's Road, London.

S. G. W. (Forest Gate).—Write to Mary Bull about it. She knows more about babies and such like than we do.

"SAUCY SMITH" (Kennington, S.E.).—We have read your note on "The Sanctity of the Nude," and had a good mind to send it on to the Bishop of Kensington. What "lads" you colonials are!

W. W. (Sydenham).—We have not any means of discovering the name and address of the Stafford lady who left a handbag containing £2,000 in gold and notes and a cheque for £11,000 in addition to jewellery, and who, on its being found and restored to her by a ticket collector at Stafford, did not even take the trouble to thank him.

"ASTONISHED" (Llanwrst).—The editor of the forerunner of JOHN BULL was Theodore Hook. That, as we have already said, was our first time on earth—as a newspaper.

£1,000 for the best "Bullet"—Another Mammoth Prize Offer. See page 38.

LETTER BAG.—(Continued.)

LEGAL.

- J. B. (Brighton).**—The agreement is binding, and if you do anything contrary to its terms an injunction and damages could be obtained against you. You may start in business on your own account, but not within the radius prescribed by the agreement. You had better attend the Court and tell the Judge all about it.
- W. R. D. S. (Portsmouth).**—If the house did not realise sufficient to pay off both the mortgages, interest, and costs, you are liable for the balance. If judgment were obtained against your wife for the £50, execution could be levied on any of her property. She should try to come to an arrangement to pay by small instalments.
- H. O. (N.W.).**—You cannot do anything in the matter. The firm has acted within its strict legal rights.
- O. C. (Bristol).**—You have no right of action. You had better find another job.
- E. R. (Islington).**—If you were living apart from your husband at the time the child was born and for nine months previously, you could obtain an order against the man.
- J. J. (Liverpool)** says that a friend of his, an Army pensioner, is a patient in hospital, that the authorities claim ninepence of the shilling a day he receives from the War Office; and asks if this is legal. In Parliamentary language, the answer is in the affirmative.
- "CRITICAL" (Barnet).**—If a servant is too ill to perform his duties, he is not entitled to his wages. You should be grateful for the extra week your employer paid, and also for the Insurance benefits. Your master need not take you back when you recover unless he likes. Many firms, in view of the Act, have ceased paying their employees during sickness. They consider one dose of "rare and refreshing fruit" sufficient.
- F. W. (Lowestoft).**—Your brother has certainly acted illegally in selling the furniture and running away with the proceeds. As your father died without making a will, you and your younger brother should share the personal property equally with your eldest brother. Clip his wings when you catch him.
- E. H. (Sheffield).**—Your employers cannot be compelled to pay you a lump sum for the loss of your finger. They might make you a reasonable offer, if you were to approach them, in order to do away with the inconvenience of continuing the weekly payments.
- "FAIRPLAY" (Liverpool).**—You must contribute to the support of your wife if she has become chargeable to the rates—even if she has been certified incurably insane. This is not a new law; it is a very old one. Who do you think should support your wife—the other ratepayers?

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

- MATHERSON'S ALKALI CO.—J. A. P. (Halshead).**—Under the Company Laws of several of the States of America, shareholders are not entitled to copies of reports and balance-sheets. All they can do is to attend the annual meetings, and even when that is convenient or possible, the proceedings are usually a farce. If you have any friend on the spot you might ask him to make inquiries for you; otherwise we are afraid you are helpless. Perhaps it would draw something if you asked the Secretary what he can offer for your shares.
- JOHN BULL BANK.—"CAREFUL."**—You are quite right to be cautious. The Bank is perfectly sound. Its business is conducted on progressive, as distinct from "copy book" lines, and full opportunity is taken of profitable but not hazardous enterprise. We can advise a deposit at the fixed rate of 5 per cent. per annum.
- BORYSLAW PETROLEUM CO.—E. T. (Leicester), J. G. L. (Methil).**—This Company's properties are situated in a fashionable oil-bearing district, and we see no reason why they should not do well.
- RUSSIAN OIL LANDS.—"RAILWAY."**—We do not recommend you to join the reconstruction, as we doubt whether the 4s. assessment will place that company on a paying basis.
- GREAT CENTRALS.—"P. AND O."**—The company has to earn nearly £100,000 more net, before the Preferred Ordinary comes within sight of a dividend. It is pretty certain the gap will be filled in the course of a year or two, but meantime we think the 1894 Preference is the better bargain, as it must get its full dividend of 5 per cent. before the others have a look in. If you exchange you will be getting some income meantime, with the practical certainty that the stock will reach par in the course of a year or two.
- EAGLE OIL TRANSPORT PREFERENCE.—LE D. R. (Wrexham).**—This is a perfectly sound investment, but developments are held back by the troubles in Mexico.
- OIL SHARES.—"GIANT."**—North Caucasian is believed to have excellent prospects, and the shares have been very steady round about 35s., even in recent dull markets.
- SHANTAS.—A. C. (Bideford).**—It is quite possible the shares may be pushed up, but they are not intrinsically worth the present price, and you are most likely to lose money if you touch them.
- ROYAL SOVEREIGN INSURANCE SOCIETY.—"NUGENT."**—The society has ceased to exist and those who were responsible for the direction of its affairs have "gone away" without leaving any clue as to their whereabouts.
- FOREIGN BONDS.—J. O'K. (Cork).**—The bonds you mention are all right, but we do not recommend dealings with the firm named. Better communicate with Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10, Rue du 4 Septembre, La Bourse, Paris, who are the largest dealers in this class of security.
- SPICERS AND FONDS.—J. M. (Dublin).**—We have heard the rumour you refer to, but do not attach much importance to it. Changes in management are believed to be impending, however, and the shares may be a fair gamble.
- RAILWAY SHARES.—INVESTMENT.**—Of course there is an element of speculation in every investment, however high-class, owing to market fluctuations. But we consider all the leading railway shares to be worth buying at present prices.—North Westerns or Midlands for choice.

CITY AND COUNTY HOUSE PURCHASE CO.—M. M. (Burntisland).—We do not recommend their House Purchase Certificates, and you should make another selection. If the object you have in view is the purchase of property combined with a secure investment, apply for the prospectus of the National Freehold Land Society, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—J. W. S. (Greenock).—Pay no heed to the statements of agents of rival companies. The Company is in a sound position, but has been passing through troublous times owing to the building up in recent years of an Industrial Branch, which has proved an expensive proceeding. The Company, however, is under capable and experienced management, which is alive to the importance of keeping expenditure well under control and re-establishing the good name the Company has always enjoyed for healthy and progressive development.

J. C. (Somerset).—We have a good opinion of the "Ideal" policy. The conditions and benefits are strikingly in favour of the assured, and the policy is justly popular. We should advise you to hold on.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO.—B. W. L. (London).—The complaints we have received are on the score that the true value of policies "on the basis of present settlements" has not been realised in subsequent years, and this has occasioned much disappointment, the explanation being that the dividend allocations have been effected owing to a steady decrease in interest earnings. The Company is run on the "mutual" principle, and is, of course, quite sound financially. If you are satisfied with the Policy Conditions, we see no reason why you should not apply for the £500 twenty years Endowment Policy. We cannot recommend the firm of Advertising Contractors you mention.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE CO.—W. A. (Derby).—It is an Office in the front rank, and we see no objection to your making application for the Endowment Policy you mention. Ascertain, however, the conditions relating to Surrender Values and Paid-up Assurances in the event of premium payments being discontinued.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA INSURANCE CORPORATION.—J. C. (Methwold).—The Victoria Legal Friendly Society is, of course, in no way affected financially by the misfortunes which have overtaken the Corporation. There was no connection between the two concerns except that prominent officials associated with the Friendly Society were also interested in the administration of the affairs of the Corporation. The Friendly Society is well established and strong financially, and our criticisms in regard to it have had reference to what we consider to be the want of liberality in the conditions of the assurance as affecting the interests of the poor of the community who are the holders of their policies.

SPORTING.

Sporting inquiries must be addressed to the Sporting Editor, 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

PATRICK O'BRIEN'S GRAND NATIONAL SWEEP.—H. W. H. (Moseley).—The result of the Draw will appear in our issue for the week ending March 28th, which will be published in London on Wednesday, March 25th, and in the provinces on Thursday, the 26th.—"Downfall" (Culcutta).—We beg to refer you to our issue of February 7th.

DOUGLAS AND SMITH (Geneva).—B. H. (Preston).—We do not advise. **JAMES FERGUSON (Birsfielden).—R. P. R. (Carlton, Notts.), R. N. W. (Slugsby).**—This individual is apparently on the warpath again, and we must repeat the warning we have so frequently given.

J. WESTER (Birsfielden).—N. V. (Lanlivery), W. H. R. (London, N.E.C.S. (Norfolk), AND OTHERS.—Do not send any money for this man's Lincolnshire Handicap Sweep. He is nothing to do with the old-established firm of James Wester, and his statement that he is the "leading Continental Turf Accountant" is all bunkum.

TURF POOL SYNDICATE (Geneva).—P. J. J. (Barnsley).—We have made inquiries and understand that Draw Numbers have been duly allotted to you, so, in the circumstances, the miscarriage of the ticket does not seem to be very material. The Editor will be present at the Draw for the Lincolnshire Handicap Sweepstake, and you may rely upon everything being straightforward and above board.

H. DIAMOND (Lucerne).—W. G. S. (Cape Province, S. Africa).—You may ignore the statement to which you call our attention, which we are satisfied is entirely without foundation.—**H. G. P. (Swansea).**—We are not responsible for anyone else's opinions. We are satisfied that Mr. Diamond's Sweepstakes are perfectly bona-fide.

JOHN BULL DERRY SWEEPSTAKE.—T. H. H. (Bellast).—As a "constant reader," we should have thought that you were aware that we have repeatedly vouched for the genuineness of the John Bull Derry Sweep.—**"THREE SPINNS."**—We advise you to insist upon the individual from whom you purchased the tickets forwarding to Messrs. Smallman and Terry and Mr. Patrick O'Brien postage stamps to the value of 24d. in order that they may send him a formal acknowledgment of their money and counterfoils.—**"ALPHA."**—You can use a *nom-de-plume*.

E. KINCHIN (Birsfielden).—W. H. (Cape Town).—We have returned the counterfoils and money order you sent us, and strongly advise you to have nothing to do with this man's Sweepstakes. We observe that the first prize of £5,000 in his Manchester November Handicap Sweep went to a gentleman whose address is given as "13, Sallow Street, Regent Street," a newsagent's shop, to which letters may be addressed for a small fee. The addresses of the winners of the consolation prizes are extremely vague.

LONDON CITY CLUB (Brunnen).—W. R. (Glasgow), G. P. (Sheffield).—Have nothing to do with these people's Lincoln Handicap Sweep. The guarantee of £5,000 by the "Committee" whose names appear at the foot of the circular you send us, who are described as "well-known English Bankers and Sportsmen," does not impress us. As a matter of fact, the individuals are unknown to us.

FRANK DAVIES (Birsfielden).—"DRAW," "G. WILTSHIRE" AND OTHERS.—We know nothing of this man who is running a sweepstake on the City and Suburban. We advise you to confine your business to those firms with whose methods we are familiar and for whose bona-fides we can vouch.

GRAND NATIONAL SWEEPS.—S. McD. (Manchester).—In our reply to your enquiry in last week's issue, we inadvertently stated that the *Tribune* of Lucerne, was running a Grand National Sweep. We find that this is not so, as their Sweepstake is on the Lincolnshire Handicap.

Another Mammoth "Bullets" Prize Offer. See page 38.

CITY NOTES.

(For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see Letter Bag pages.)

The Stock Markets.

It would seem as though the stars in their courses were fighting against any sustained improvement in the Stock Markets. No sooner is one trouble surmounted than several others crop up to take its place, and dealers are discouraged at every turn. Affairs in Mexico begin to look more threatening, because unless President Wilson has the courage to own that he put his money on the wrong horse when he backed Villa against Huerta, it is difficult to see how United States intervention can be much longer avoided. Then the financial position in Brazil is causing a good deal of anxiety. It has brought one important Paris house almost to its knees, and there was some talk of serious difficulties nearer home, but rumour in both cases was guilty of considerable exaggeration. Nevertheless there will be some fairly heavy liquidation to face if market shows signs of taking a turn for the better, and that knowledge certainly tends to retard the process of recovery. Home Railways seem to have no friends in spite of the splendid yields and the excellent position of most of the leading companies as disclosed in the recent reports. Among the Miscellaneous market, Breweries show some strength, but they move slowly when the favourable opportunities for investment are considered.

Jamaica Copra and Estates Company.

Since replying to a correspondent a few months ago, when we stated that this was a thoroughly respectable concern and expressed the hope that we should have some special information respecting the project at an early date, we have made further inquiries, and, from the information which has been afforded us, we have little doubt that the shares of this undertaking—the sponsors for which are the Winchester Syndicate, Winchester House—will participate in the boom in Copra, the early advent of which is being confidently predicted by well-informed people. The company has secured the services as manager of a gentleman of many years' experience in Jamaica, and he arrived there a few weeks ago to take up his duties. From reports which he has cabled over, it is evident that no time has been lost in proceeding with active development of the properties. According to the statement of the chairman at the Statutory Meeting we learn that a portion of the company's estates could to-day be sold as building sites for more than the purchase price of the whole of the property, and is increasing in value daily. The company had further acquired an important interest in a large coconut growing concession on the Central American coast, and one of the directors has already sailed for Central America on a personal tour of inspection. The Board is apparently an enterprising one, and the prospects of success of the undertaking seem very bright.

How Canada Spends Borrowed Money.

Canada continues her mad career as a borrower, and once again before the last loan is paid up another issue is dumped on the market. This time the amount is a trifle of £5,000,000 in 4 per cents. at 99, and it will be interesting to see what sort of a reception it meets with. But it is still more interesting to learn how some of the money poured into Canada in recent years has been spent. A Commission was appointed by the Government some time ago to investigate the expenditure on the National Trans-continental Railway, and its report has just been published. In plain terms it alleges that there has been reckless extravagance in the construction of the line, with the result that it has cost the formidable sum of £25,000 per mile, when £10,000 ought to have been sufficient. The undertaking has already cost nearly £50,000,000, and the Commission reports that the New Brunswick section, which cost £7,000,000, should never have been built. Thus has the money Britain has poured into Canada been squandered, and withal there is no word of the three *Dreadnoughts* which were to have been presented to the Imperial Navy. "Borrow or burst" is the motto—and we wonder how long it will take the British investor to tire of the game. "Canadian Emigrants, Beware," has long been one of our warnings; and we emphatically apply the same advice to Canadian investors.

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

We have not space to spare for the whole of Mr. Craig's remarks on the Ceres district, Cape Province, but we give the following extracts:—"The evidence which attracted prospectors to this district was an occasional well-authenticated outbreak of gas. In the last few years several reports have been written on the subject of oil in this part of the country. The only report of note (?) however, is a recent one by Mr. J. E. Mills Davies, who describes the geological structure excellently, and while not holding out any definite hopes of petroleum being discovered, advocates the careful investigation of the gas exhalations. The geological structure is simple and well defined. A broad and gentle anticline runs obliquely through the eastern part of the area, and is succeeded to the westward by an equally broad and gentle syncline. So far, the conditions seemed, on theoretical grounds, by no means unfavourable, the possibility being that the gas was issuing from beneath the shale band, in a small strike valley. . . . The gas cannot be proved to have issued from the shale band or the sandstone below it. It has only been observed in one narrow strip of alluvial land in the bottom of the lateral valley. The gas has issued at several points from what is practically an old marsh. This explains the occasional evolution of gas, which is a superficial phenomenon, not connected in any way with the solid strata beneath. It is simply marsh gas." Now, against this arrogant declaration of opinion, the Consolidated Oilfields Co. are able to set up the accomplished fact proving the contrary. They have bored into the solid strata at a distance of about 400 yards from the only spot whence, according to Mr. Craig, gas could never have emanated, with the result that, at a depth of 115 feet into this solid strata, they encountered a strong show of gas, which forced its way through the cement plug, which was placed in the bore-hole previous to discontinuing operations for the Christmas holidays, while the cement was gradually setting. And, of this gas, Mr. Mills Davies, the company's consulting engineer, says:—"The gas comes from below one of several minor shale bands, which lie above the main shale bed, and it is not of much importance, except as indicating what may be looked for in greater quantity lower down," that is, when the main shale band is reached. We think we have said sufficient, in the meantime, to show that Mr. Craig's opinion, concerning the origin of the gas, at any rate, has been proved to be based on imperfect knowledge of the locality, and to be entirely inaccurate.

The Chillagoe Ramp.

Four times previously re-constructed, this Queensland ramp has shut down its so-called mines and its smelters, and the directors coolly admit its insolvency. Twelve months ago the last re-construction took place, with an assessment of 3s. per share, bringing in £180,000. It has all gone. Mr. Sidney S. Kennedy then championed the cause of dissentient shareholders, and is still fighting for them in the Melbourne Courts. The action of the executive in trying to exclude dissentients on a technical point, brought the rejoinder that they were acting like a "gang of professional knaves." We were not of those who thought the charge too strong, and later events have amply justified it. Mr. Kennedy was a true prophet. He predicted the present position, but we doubt if he expected it so soon. Last April, and again as recently as August, we commented very strongly upon the disgraceful manner in which the Chillagoe group was being managed and English investors filched of their savings, and we hope that very few of our readers are interested. For those who are, we point out that misrepresentations and omissions of material facts from the prospectus are good grounds for making directors liable for the squandered money of this enterprise, and we strongly recommend all shareholders to communicate with Mr. Kennedy at the John Bull Bank, Old Jewry.

JOHN BULL LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 6th to the 16th March, 1914 (both inclusive) for the Preparation of Dividend Warrants.

By Order of the Board,
COLES L. HARRIS,
Secretary.

Look Out for an Amazing Prize Offer in Next Week's "Mary Bull."

Another Mammoth

**FOR
THIS WEEK
ONLY!**

First Prize

£1,000

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 examples:

GIDDY GIRLS
BUSINESS GOVERNMENT LEAGUE
WORKING LATE
BADLY BEATEN
BOARDING-HOUSE STEAK
ENGLAND'S HOPE
PRESSED FOR MONEY
BY WEAKNESS
DEAR FRIENDS
AFTER THE BOYS
FOOTLIGHTS' GLARE
A RUDE SHOCK
NECESSARY REFORM
CHEAP TALK
IN THE CHAIR
DO CHICKEN
CAUSES EMBARRASSMENT
SWEETHEART'S ANSWER
MISSING PROPERTY
WHEN COURTSHIP BEGINS
DURING LENT
GOING TOO FAR
SAD STORY
HIGHEST MAN
SLOW TO MOVE
MASTER'S CHOICE
DETTLES WITH DIFFICULTIES
WOULDN'T ANSWER
WITHOUT UNCONSCIOUS
SAME OLD LIE
BITTER RECOLLECTIONS
KNOWS THE NOTES
WEEKLY PAYMENTS
A GOOD JUDGE
DOING CREDITORS
BY WIFE'S COOKING
VERY CLOSE
GRAVE CANDAL
MAKED ME SAD
BLOOMING AGAIN

2ND Prize
£100

Once again we are making a record "Bullet" offer. This week, and for this week only, have increased our First Prize to the enormous sum of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. Further

THIS WEEK'S PRIZES

3RD PRIZE
£25

20 PRIZES
£2 10
EACH

2500 PRIZES of 2/6 EACH

Closing date, Wednesday, March 11th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(75) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 32.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Coupons for this competition will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated March 14th.

Closing date, Wednesday, March 11th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(75) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 32.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 75," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "Slow to Move" and take the letters "M" and "G" using the word "Government" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS." From the example "Dodging Creditors," the Bullet "ENTAILS TROUBLE" can be formed. Again, if you choose the example "Sad Story," using the letter "T" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet "TOLD BY TRAMPS."

Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see the "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

The Result of this Competition will appear in our issue dated March 28th.
For Rules, etc., see opposite page.

**FOR
THIS WEEK
ONLY!**

Complete List of all cash and other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Gatwick, Haydock Park and Hurst Park are the meetings down for this week. Gatwick winners may be FERVENT and BOATSWAIN to-day and BERNSTEIN and EXCELSIOR to-morrow. The Editor's horses have chances.

At Haydock to-day the best things are RED COCKADE for the Flexton Steeplechase and LEGALITE for the March Steeplechase. To-morrow KINGBORROW and FLEETING PEACH are likely winners.

At Hurst Park on Friday LUTHER III* for the Champion Steeplechase should prove the best thing of the week. THE LAST may win the Stanley Steeplechase, and MUTTON CUTLETS the Richmond Hurdle. On Saturday CAFE DU MONDE can win the Hampton Hurdle, VALDES SEAL the Priory Hurdle, and MAJOR SYMONS the Novices Hurdle.

THE TURF POOL SYNDICATE.

Somebody has been pulling the legs of our contemporaries, the *Daily News* and the *Star*. It appears that Mr. John Gulland, an official of the Anti-Gambling League, has been to Geneva, and has discovered a series of mares' nests. The following letter from the Turf Pool Syndicate will show how easily these anti-sports are gulled:—

Re enclosed from *Daily News* and *Star*, we shall be glad if you kindly repudiate the statements.

You will observe that the names of Webb, Drew, Stokvis and Drake are given as the promoters of the Turf Pool Syndicate Sweepstakes. We deny that either, or any of these persons named, are or have been connected directly or indirectly with the Turf Pool Syndicate.

Our business is carried on at 5, Rue de la Plaine, Geneva, by a permanent staff of 10 persons, which is increased during our busy season to upwards of 30.

It is obvious that our Office address could have been obtained by enquiry at the Post Office, where our telegraphic address, "Sweeps," has been registered for over 12 months. With regard to the Post Box, as you are aware every prominent business firm in the City of Geneva rents a Post Box for the sake of convenience, and it is necessary to become a resident before being granted this concession. There is a further charge made with regard to the publication of the result of our Draw after the race. This is absolutely untrue, as our subscribers can testify, the result of the Calcutta Draw (which governed ours) was published in the *Daily Mail* before the race, and our result was also published in the sporting Press.

Football Fancies.

By "McW."

Last Saturday was a joy day for the "expert solutionists," of whom we have heard in a recent lateful announcement. Form was smashed to smithereens, and I must confess that I have been laughing at myself for having imagined myself a seer and a prophet. Yes, occasionally form gets up on its front legs, and kicks its hind legs over the traces. Nobody can explain why it should do so. It just happens, and leaves us awe-struck.

Next Saturday, March 7th, Sunderland are at home to Burnley in the Fourth Round of the Cup Ties. Last Saturday's games were to have given us an idea as to what is likely to happen at Roker Park. Instead, we are left bewildered. Sunderland were beaten at home by Bradford City, but Burnley went one worse by losing at Turf Moor to the despised of the League, Preston North End. The funny part of this quaint result is that Burnley were leading at half time by 3 goals to 1, and yet Preston came along at a gallop, and won by 4 goals to 3, when the game was practically over. When such things happen, how can we prophesy with any certainty concerning the result of the Cup Tie?

In all the League games, eleven away teams won, whilst nine matches resulted in draws. That left only ten home teams victorious. Truly an extraordinary state of affairs! The feature of last Saturday was Aston Villa's superb form against Chelsea. We Londoners are of the opinion that the Villans gave us the best football seen in the metropolis this season. They seem to be a greater team now than when last year they lifted the Cup, and that is saying something.

I have had quite a number of visitors to our Football Competition Department, and I have shown them everything connected with it. It is most gratifying to us that each and everyone has expressed the most complete satisfaction with our methods. However, I want plenty more visitors. You need not be shy, since, I assure you, all "swank" is banished from our department. Come in your old clothes, and see us in our working garb. We do not sport glad raiment at 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, March 7th, 1914.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Season's Result.	JOHN BULL.	The Umpire	Weekly Dispatch	Star of The World	Competition's Guide	Sunday Chronicle	Sporting Globe	Latimer's Weekly
FIRST ENGLISH CUP LEAGUE—(4th Round)									
Sheffield Wednesday v. Aston Villa	—	Home	Away	Draw	Away	Away	—	Draw	Draw
Liverpool v. Queen's Park R.	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Sunderland v. Burnley	—	Draw	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	—	Home	Home
Manchester City v. Sheffield U.	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	—	Home	Home
SECOND LEAGUE									
Bradford City v. Everton	Bradford won.	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Millwall v. Chelsea	Chelsea won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Tottenham H. v. Preston N.E.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Bury v. Leeds City	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	—	Home	Home
Huddersfield T. v. Bristol G.	Huddersfield won	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	—	Home	Home
Lincoln City v. Birmingham	Birmingham won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	—	Home	Home
Blackpool v. Grimsby Town	Blackpool won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	—	Home	Home
Nottingham Forest v. West Ham A.	No match	Home	Away	Draw	Away	Away	—	Draw	Draw
Leicester Fosse v. Bradford	Leicester won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	—	Home	Home
Wolverhampton W. v. Blackpool	Wolves won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Hull City v. Glossop	Hull City won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Barnley v. Clapton Orient	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Fulham v. Bournemouth	No match	Away	Away	Draw	Home	Draw	—	Home	Draw
SOUTHERN LEAGUE									
Bristol Rovers v. Norwich City	Bristol won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Reading v. Watford	Watford won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
West Ham U. v. Coventry City	Coventry won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Plymouth Argyle v. Crystal Palace	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	—	Draw	Home
Southampton v. Reading	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Away	Draw	—	Away	Home
Swindon T. v. Walsingham	Swindon won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Cardiff City v. Northampton	No match	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	—	Draw	Home
Exeter City v. Exeter United	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
Millwall A. v. Brighton & Hove	Millwall won	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home



?

\$1000 by all that's splendid!

WINNERS OF £500.

WINNERS OF £1,000.

J. JOHNSON, 12, Panmure Street, Dundee.
G. W. WEBB, J.P., Architect, Market Place Chambers, Reading.
F. C. PAPWORTH, 127 Felsham Road, Putney, London.
R. P. WEEKS, 50, Bailey Street, Brynmawr, Brecon, South Wales.

"We have many times expressed satisfaction with Mr. H. Diamond's methods, and can assure our readers that, from beginning to end, each sweep promoted by him is absolutely straight, square and above board."

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Send a post card (postage id. for the most liberal price list issued. But no need to wait for coupons, write your commission on plain paper.

"John Bull says—Messrs. H. Hamilton & Co. are thoroughly reliable."

Following are names of a few Winners of Totalicator Prizes.

£1,035	by E. H. Hanna, Esq., 77a, Linden Road, Acton, London, W.
£1,421	.. F. W. Eades, Esq., 1, Peppercroft Street, Gravesend.
£763	.. Miss J. Morton, 9, Sussex Mansions, South Kensington, London.
£1,025	.. A. Bridgman, Esq., 59, High Street, Highgate, London, N.
£1,132	.. A. Troughton, Esq., 12, Central Markets, London, E.C.
£901	.. A. E. de Souza, Esq., 44, Colby Road, Gipsy Hill, London, S.E.
£225 5d.	.. Lord Auckland, The Burrow, Howard Road, Bournemouth.
£113	.. John Ahern, Esq., Main Street, Charleville, Co. Cork, Ireland.
£1,012	.. Mrs. Burgess, 43, Ridgmount Gardens, London, W.
£253	.. John A. Dodworth, Esq., 190, Sheffield Road, Walsley Bridge, Sheffield.
£126 10d.	.. John Cotton, Esq., Golf Hotel, Crail, Scotland.
£1042	.. Mrs. Miller, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead.
£1,553	.. Miss W. M. Everett, 7, Admiralty Road, Portsmouth.

(Names published by permission.)

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